

# CHILD-WELFARE MAGAZINE

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### The President's Desk

FROM Tennessee, Pennsylvania, Illinois and other states information has come that women are claiming to represent the Congress of Mothers and to have the endorsement of the Congress for the publications they are selling, and the authority to organize for the Congress. The National Congress of Mothers and Parent-Teacher Associations has not given its endorsement to any publications nor is it employing organizers in connection with books. The Congress books "Parents and Their Problems" are published and sold by the Kaiser Publishing Co., and the Child-Welfare Circles organized by them are received as members.

The increase in price which the publishers found necessary owing to the increase of price in paper, it is hoped, will be temporary. No officer of the congress has endorsed anything, but from various sources it has come to their ears that unscrupulous agents make that assertion. It indicates their appreciation of the value of the Congress.

A JOINT conference of National Congress of Mothers and Parent-Teacher Associations and Home Education Division, U. S. Bureau of Education, will be held at Hotel Astor, New York, July 7, in connection with National Education Association. At the morning and afternoon sessions the program includes round tables and addresses by Commissioner Claxton, State Superintendent Bradford of Colorado, Miss Elizabeth Harrison, President National Kindergarten College, Miss Fanniebelle Curtis, Supervisor of Kindergartens, New York, Miss Bessie Locke, Chief Kindergarten Division, U. S. Bureau of Education, and officers of the congress. A vocational moving picture film will be shown.

The members of three hundred mothers' clubs in connection with New York Kindergartens have been invited to attend the afternoon session, which will demonstrate the extension of kindergarten system by coöperative work and how mothers may use the philosophy in home education.

Every member of the congress who may be in New York, July 7, is invited to attend.

JULY and August bring added responsibility to parents, for during vacation the entire time of the children is under home direction.

School provides for only certain phases of education, and valuable as they may be there are others equally necessary which must be secured outside of school.

Summer affords the opportunity for thoughtful parents to so arrange for the health, pleasure and profit of their children as to make the vacation one of joy and value.

There is time for closer companionship, which gives better understanding of the children. Every mother can plan regular duties for each child which will occupy part of every day, which will develop reliability and responsibility. Boys and girls who know all about the work in a home are better prepared to make good homes themselves when they leave the parental roof.

The home work may be so divided that each one will have experience with each branch of work. Preparation of one meal a day is valuable education. The serving of the meal can be the duty of another child. The making of beds can be delegated to another. The clearing away of the meal to another. All should be under careful supervision with a system of credit for work well done. The giving of a definite amount of money for the purchase of food for one meal, and the wholesome rivalry as to who can provide the most appetizing and nourishing menu within a given amount is both interesting and educational.

For the country child there are countless outdoor duties that are educational and profitable, and as far as may be city children should be given some glimpses of the joys of the country in summer. It only needs thoughtful planning by parents to do this.

Comparatively few parents can go away from the city home in summer, but with the cheap service of the trolleys, five cents will in most places take one far enough to get away from city streets.

The preparation of the luncheon under directions given by a bulletin on "Noon-Day Luncheons for Children" issued by the United States Department of Agriculture can be delegated to one of the older children.

Every child should learn to know the different trees, the wild flowers and ferns, and with illustrated books procurable at any library an added pleasure is taken in country walks.

With pencil and paper see how many varieties of plants can be found in a single field. It will surprise many an adult.

The Audubon Society has leaflets at two cents each, giving a colored picture of a bird with a description of it, and an uncolored drawing which children may paint. These interest and educate, and every child likes them. To know the birds and to learn how many varieties live near one's home is a valuable phase of nature study. Every child should have her own garden if any place for it can be found.

The Boy Scouts and Camp Fire Girls offer real service for vacation days. Parents can get suggestions from study of their work.

A tool chest and wood should be accessible to boys and girls, and with designs easily procurable many useful articles can be made. One nine-year-old boy was so successful in making bird houses that he easily secured orders for them at twenty-five cents each.

Little girls can profitably spend an hour a day in making a doll's wardrobe, learning to sew on things that they enjoy.

Older girls will learn much if mothers permit them to choose some inexpensive material for a dress, and with a pattern cut and make it according to their own fancy.

Outdoor games and plays should have a place in summer days. Reading too. Careful parents will see that books are chosen well; and reading aloud to mother cultivates the ability to read well and the questions raised by the reading can be discussed helpfully.

Parents should remember that there is a happy medium between no planning for children's days and filling every hour.

One of the blessed privileges of childhood is time to dream and do what

one's own tastes dictate. Initiative is developed only by those who have some control of their own time and acts, and it helps parents to know better the real heart of a child, by observance of what he really likes to do when left to his own devices.

The Boys and Girls Reading Courses provided by the U. S. Bureau of Education, and the list of "1,000 Good Books for Children" published by the National Congress of Mothers will help in home education work.

To make the children happy, healthy and useful through the days of freedom from school rests with the parents.

THIRTY national organizations of women are members of the National Council of Women, which is one of twenty-six national councils united in the International Council of Women of which the Marchioness of Aberdeen and Temari is president. The General Federation of Women's Clubs joined the American National Council in May.

**The National  
Council of Women  
Child-Welfare  
Department  
Organized**

By the suggestion of the different organizations, and by the choice of the officers of the National Council, Mrs. Frederic Schoff was asked to take the chairmanship of the committee on child welfare, and has accepted, seeing in it opportunity for valuable coöperation in promotion of the welfare of the children.

Every woman is naturally interested in this department, and although every organization may not do active work in child welfare, many may do something.

"THE Maternity Relief Association has been formed primarily to relieve the condition, at the present time, of the women and girl victims in the devastated war zone, who, through absolutely no sin of their own, are about to become mothers.

**Appeal for Mothers  
of War Babies from  
Miss Mary Mc-  
Keen, Moorestown,  
N. J., R. D. 4**

"It would seem, therefore, as pure women, seeking to conserve that virtue sacred to women through the ages, that we should lend a hand, as they, indeed, have lost what makes life worth living, and motherhood itself sublime.

"American women are making these articles which we are sending, and will see they get to their proper destination.

"Already we have shipped about fifty thousand articles, but as more are needed, may we ask your help in the forming of local branches of this association, or will you call a meeting in your town or county, that we may put the sad facts before you. A little letter of sympathy or cheer is often enclosed.

"We know that more time, money, and energy has been spent last winter for relief work than ever before, but we beg you to consider how preëminently this is ours to do, since our very souls go out in sympathy to these women and young girls who have been foully robbed of that which every good woman holds highest and best—her chastity."

For general information apply to

(Miss) MARY McKEEN, *Pres.*,  
Moorestown, R. D. 4,  
Burlington Co., N. J.

## Immigrant Mothers Need to Learn English

By MRS. FRANK R. HILL

An imperative need of every mother is a command of the language of the country in which she lives. Without it she is hopelessly handicapped in her duties as mother from which there follow serious results for her children.

Probably 2,000,000 of the 5,000,000 adult foreign-born citizens classed in the last census report of the United States as "illiterate" because they can not read and write English are mothers, the trainers of little children, home keepers. In this fact we face a situation not affecting alone their homes, but touching our entire national life and which should be vigorously combated.

One of the greatest educational problems we have is upholding a standard of good English; our schools and colleges devote a maximum of time and effort to its study, the importance of which is everywhere recognized and accentuated. English is the coin of the realm, the use of which every one must understand or they and others will suffer.

It is particularly needful that there be good English in the home, for it is a well-known fact that perfection in language is usually determined by the interest in its perfection in the home where habits are formed and often carried through the grades, high school, college and even the theological seminary despite later teaching.

For men and women, free to come and go at will, the problem is not so great—they can attend night schools and classes in English, but the mother in the home with young children she can not leave or take with her must have teaching brought to her, and the vital importance of the work justifies all the effort.

To begin with we err seriously in calling these mothers "illiterate" because they can not read and write English, if they can read and write their own language and we ourselves

would come under the same classification abroad when travelling where we did not know the language of the country.

Most of them will prove to be bright and interesting pupils, not only having been trained in their mother tongue but often speaking as well some other language and, being cultivated and well informed, there is a solid basis for study of language which makes teaching them a pleasure.

In so far as we have never extended to these mothers the hand of friendship and coöperation in helping them to learn the language of our country we are responsible for the situation.

Their condition resembles that of deaf mutes, and their deprivations are much the same as theirs would be. They are denied whatever comes to us through knowledge of English—an appalling thought which fills one with pity. Our orators speak in vain for them; they can not understand our ministers; the most powerful preaching would go to them as if unheard; they are incapable of taking part in a church service and are virtually blind to the vast stores of literature in our libraries. Take these things out of any mother's life and she can not be the mother she would otherwise be.

The relation of such a mother to her children becomes more and more alienated as the child is older. When necessary the child acts as interpreter, and comes to regard her as ignorant and acquires a feeling of superiority which at once affects home discipline and the mother's control is lessened.

As the children's talk among themselves is not understood by the mother, she lacks supervision over it, a vital point in child training; also she can not know her children's friends, if they are Americans, as she should.

The child, in time, often becomes



ashamed of what it, and the world, look upon as ignorance, and is usually ashamed to speak the language the mother speaks, though it may be cultured and refined and, as the child uses it less and less, a gulf widens between them, destroying the intimacy which should be there.

I have known these mothers to become grandmothers without learning English and, as the second generation rarely learns the foreign language, an almost complete separation takes place between grandmother and grandchildren. That wonderful, wonderful woman, a child's grandmother. How full of pity our hearts were for the children who had none, what a fearful vacancy was in their lives. No grandmother to tell them of her youth and what people did then, of the stirring times she had seen, the history in the making she had known, of the childhood of their mother, whose pranks and cunning sayings only grandmother could relate to them. No grandmother to read to them and tell them Bible stories and choice classic tales; all the happy, happy hours which might have passed in delightful intimacy lost for the child without a grandmother, and yet here in our midst are thousands of them

whose relation to their grandchildren is one of a deaf-mute.

Whatever is done to palliate these evils can be best accomplished by women as the teaching must be done in the homes. There is no organization so potent to undertake this task as the Congress of Mothers. We have thousands of members eager to do any work they can. A system noting, when registering children in the schools, whether or not the mothers were able to speak English would put the Parent-Teacher Association in touch with all non-English-speaking mothers having children of school age and through these mothers many others could be found.

A card index of volunteers for the work would enable the chairman of the local committee to readily assign someone to instruct each mother. With a national committee to give suggestions, methods of work, plans to reach mothers whose interest needs to be aroused, cooperating with state and local committees very effective work could be done. Those who engage in it would not only be teaching these mothers English, but also uniting them with the life and culture of our land and transforming their often isolated, colorless lives.

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### **Labor in Faith**

Do you long for the dawn of a brighter day  
With a light from the land beyond  
Caressing the hills like a breeze at play,  
Or the touch of a mother fond?  
Do you dream of a change in the scheme of things,  
And a wayside of bloom and blade  
Where blossoms are stirred by the whir of wings  
Of angels all undismayed?  
Do you hope for a wholesomer inner thought  
In a cleaner, better man,  
With a yearning for life with progression fraught,  
On a higher, holier plan?  
Then pray for the wisdom and charity  
To cope with the world as it seems,  
And labor in faith that to-morrow will be  
Still nearer your hopes and dreams.

—HENRY DAVID STRINGHAM.

## Teaching Children to Play

INTERESTING EXPERIENCES ENCOUNTERED BY THE TEACHERS OF GAMES IN THE BIG PUBLIC PLAYGROUNDS

By FELIX J. KOCH

"What d'ye mean, . . . play catcher?" and the big, wistful eyes looked up into Jack Roosa's own, as the teacher of games and play in the big public playground, there at the heart of the most congested portion of the Queen City, suggested that the little fellow join the other romping boys and run, to catch or be caught, in his own turn.

Jack Roosa explained: "Why . . . you run; and the boys will try to catch you. If they do, then you are *it* and you must catch them!"

Again the big eyes stared wondering. "What 'che want me te run for? D'ye mean fer me te get ye something quick?"

Funny? No, it wasn't funny! It was just a sad commentary on the lives of who shall say how many thousands of happy, bright-eyed boys and girls, living, as this little one had lived until three days before, when the family had moved to Cincinnati, in a big, bustling metropolis, either altogether without playgrounds, or, again, without playgrounds so near that the child might run there alone and play; and hard-working mothers were too busy by day, too tired of nights and Sundays, to take them on the long trip to the same. "Teaching children to play"—it does sound like a paradox, doesn't it? Childhood, the natural period of play, the epoch in every life when we learn to use our varied senses, our organs, to control this wonderful body of ours through play! And yet, here are the boys, the girls of the poor restrained, from very birth, in their play.

### PLAYING WASH DAY

Fancy yourself, reader, a mother of the tenements, needing to go out, with the dawn, to be off at your employer's and ready to "wash,"

while still this one is at breakfast. Fancy yourself her, coming home in season to cook the family's supper, eat it; then do the sewing, the mending; then laying out the work for tomorrow, then going to bed—at last! Your children, when not in school, are in care of aged "granny," who can't run after them, "keep proper eye." So, you warn them off the streets; you can't trust them alone to the distant park; when they play on the side-walk they're chased by the police; in the two rooms you own they have slight space to play. So those children grow up, never knowing real play, until, some joyous day, comes the word that a big public playground has been opened down in the tenement-district. And there, summer and winter, then, the children can play!

Better still, there are teachers—young college men, generally—paid just to lead in these games!

Cincinnati, of late years, has taken the lead in matter of public playgrounds, equipped with paid teachers of play, among cities of her size.

According to Hon. Frank Murden Moore, the director of social-center work in the Queen City of the West (an office created less than two years ago; within the purview of the city Board of Education), Cincinnati has now no less than twenty-five big public playgrounds, ten of these under control of the Park Commissioners, and fifteen in charge of the actual school board.

Teachers, of both sexes, are stationed at these playgrounds, just to lead the boys and girls in play; certain groups of teachers from 3:15 P. M., when the public schools are out, to 5:30 (time to go home to supper); others, again, from 3:15 to half past eight, when, in order to

bring them home by nine, the smaller children are expected to leave.

The work of these teachers with the children is a most interesting study in gaining good will and influence over little folk and of meeting child needs with child-psychology. A newly appointed teacher, coming to the playground for the first time, makes it his business, first of all, to get to know the children who frequent it.

By and by, having cultivated sufficient acquaintanceships, he or she, just incidentally, starts to show them a play. Perhaps it's a game of kick-ball; maybe some new hint at baseball, maybe hat-ball or some game those little ones never have played. By and by they have caught the idea, taken to it, of their own motion; chosen teams, elected captains, and that contingent, at least, is able, for the moment, to take care of itself.

Bit by bit, then, not as would an officer on sentinel duty; but just as a loiterer, the teacher of play makes his way next to the swings. Biding his time, it's not long before some big boy starts ousting a small one, some big girl tumbles a little one out, because she wants it for herself. Just accidentally letting the children see that teacher and policeman outside understand one another, that the teacher is more powerful, even, than that policeman, in here, the teacher insists on fair play. He gives a wholesome lesson in justice, he asks that older girl how she would like it if the big lady-teacher took her candy and ate it, just because she was larger, more powerful. She appeals to the other children for their verdict, as against the big girl, and, by and by, everybody understands that "first come, fair play," is the rule as to those swings!

So, again, the teacher helps the slightly older children in their playing, by getting justice for the little ones. Instead of Martha having to stop her own play to watch Charles, the teacher sets Charles and Robert and Tommy and Jackie off in a sand

pile, safe and secure, warns away all older children, assures Martha he'll be near here, and gets her into play for herself. Wherefore, Martha comes to "swear by" that teacher and is willing helper to him, in starting games for the girls.

But these are only the high points. Latterly, phonographs are being put into the Cincinnati playgrounds; Mr. Moore is now contracting for a "Punch and Judy" show, to be taken from playground to playground in turn, and other features as well.

Busy? These teachers are kept busy, just directing children at play, into play, from the time they arrive till they leave. Directors of play receive \$2.00 per diem for this labor, 3:15 to 5:00, that is to say; assistants, a dollar and a half. In other playgrounds, again, directors are paid \$3 "straight" for a full eight-hour day.

As a rule, a big playground in the Queen City will have two such attendants, a director and an assistant, though sometimes there will be a second assistant beside. In addition to these, each ground has its caretaker, who looks after the place when these others are away.

Nor are the playgrounds small, by any manner of means.

The Sinton Playground, in the western end of the Queen City proper, the most interesting, in the opinion of the students of the work, since 60 per cent. of the children are colored and the other 40 per cent., the white, comprise almost every nationality under the sun, is at least an acre in size. Two men and two women do duty, as teachers of play, on this big playground.

Beginning with June 20, each year, teachers here go on an eight-hour schedule, and the periods will run from 8:30 to 5:30 and later, again, in turn. There, with the varied children to teach, they go in, largely, for running and jumping-games.

But there is another side to play teaching on the big playground, as important still. This is the work of the professional story-tellers, whom the city has engaged to go the rounds,

telling the children stories, as the busy mothers, fathers, have no time to do. Bit by bit they encourage the children to do the same, to tell interesting stories, from their own experience; in other words, to entertain one another, when they're tired of romping, or it's too hot to play games.

So, again, the teachers drill the boys and girls in the proper way to march, in the fun and the inspiration of a flag-drill, and the like, and great times they do have, out there on the playgrounds, marching to mimic review and the like!

Sometimes they will have as high as 300 children at play, in a single playground, here, at one time. So soon as the weather permits of the opening of the wading-pools, and the children can come in and wade, lave the hot, stockingless feet, that number will double at times. Warm afternoons, a wading-pool in a city playground is the happiest, merriest place in the world.

Nor is that all that these teachers of play attend to on their playground.

Latterly, there have been introduced penny-dances in the playground,

the cent that is charged just enough to pay for the music. From 7:30 to 8:30 the children only may dance, and, again, the teachers show the unknowing *how*. Eight-thirty to ten-thirty the adults dance here, two nights a week, and very often, the teachers dance with them.

But it's only as one stands back and watches teacher and pupils, as he sees what it means to a well-grown child to be shown, for the first time, how to play, that one gets the real significance, the *raison d'être*, of the playground.

It's when you see anxious mothers come, in the morning, placing their little ones, with luncheon, in the play-teacher's care, knowing well they'll be looked after, come to no harm, until dusk; when you see those children "slide the slides," wade, run, romp, swing—what you will—merry and happy, smile chasing smile, on their cheeks, that you can fully appreciate how blessed the labor that is given to the simple purpose of teaching the children of the poor, of the lowly, the natural art—"how to play!"

## Standardizing Examinations of Music Teachers

By MADAME MARIE VON UNSCHULD

Diploma of Professor of Music for Piano and Violin from the Austrian Government; First prize, Gold Medal, from the Conservatory of Vienna. The Great Medal from the Music Society of Vienna; Court Pianist to H. M. the late Queen Elizabeth of Roumania; President Von Unschuld University of Music, Washington, D. C.; Possessor of the First Class Gold Medal of Merit of Roumania; The Cross of Merit for Arts and Sciences.

The necessity for standardizing music teaching, in order that parents may have some assurance that music teachers have had adequate preparation, is apparent to everyone who desires thoroughness in a musical education.

We have to face the fact that some institutions, for financial reasons,

and on account of insufficient training of teachers, often give diplomas not warranted by the actual knowledge of the graduates. As no government examinations for teachers are yet held in this country, as they are in Europe, the writer, for instance, having been examined by the examiners of the Austrian government, and holding the official diploma of professor of piano and violin, it occurred to her that there could be no better medium to establish such examinations here than the body representing the parties most concerned, *i. e.*, the mothers, who want for their children music teachers thoroughly prepared and tested. Having talked over the plan with the



Commissioner of Education, as his opinion seemed of great value, he pronounced it a splendid idea provided the proper coöperation can be assured. The Director of Music of the Public Schools of Washington, D. C., said that this would solve the problem of music as a major study in the high schools. For this the writer advocated that the music pupils who are allowed to take music as a major study, should do so only if they take from accredited teachers just as those teaching English, mathematics, etc., and that they (the pupils) be examined also by such qualified persons.

Therefore, I propose to the National Congress of Mothers and Parent-Teacher Associations, to establish examinations for music teachers, on the same plan as in Europe by the various governments, appointing an examining board of such efficiency that the standards of these examinations will speak for themselves. I suggest that some members of the National Congress of Mothers be also incorporated in that board.

Those desiring to teach, who had they studied with a good private teacher in a small town or in the music department of any college, would have opportunity to prove their knowledge in such a test, and should they pass a successful examination, the members of the Congress of Mothers would gladly give them their patronage, and willingly subject themselves to certain regulations which are especially necessary to the dignified standard of a music teacher. At the first examination, applicants will, without doubt, have to learn that their knowledge, though they may be holding certain diplomas, may not be adequate for the requirements. This will awaken the candidates to their duty towards mothers of the children they assume to teach, that is: to increase a superficial knowledge to a thorough one.

These examinations must prove worthy of the high standard they have for an object, so that the holding of a diploma granted under such

conditions will give full confidence to the public.

In short, I am asking the mothers in this country to absolutely insist on actual knowledge on the part of the music teachers they are patronizing, thus forcing those who need it to acquire knowledge of a higher degree, eliminating all fake diplomas and certificates, as well as those who impose upon the public with their "having studied in Europe." I also urge mothers first to accept only actual merit and knowledge certified by a diploma showing the grades obtained in each and every study, and secondly to require institutions to investigate the statement so much in favor in school catalogues, "Studied in Europe under such and such Masters," by enforcing an examination on this side of the ocean, unless, of course, a diploma is held from a reputed European conservatory. I have endeavored to work out in a general way the points which are advisable for such examinations, and I submit them to your careful consideration, should the idea, as a whole, meet with your approval. The Commissioner of Education suggested also that the plan be tried out in some one place, starting, for instance, with Washington, then extending to neighboring states, and by and by to all. This does not mean that applicants from other states would not be most welcome to participate.

I am so greatly interested in the raising of the standard of teaching that you may count on my financially disinterested services should you call on me to forward a plan of this kind.

An outline of the plan is as follows:

Time of examinations: Second part of June.

No mention of name of teacher, method or length of time of previous studies.

Examinations to be held by examiners who are specialists of the subject.

Four musicians of high standing.

A member representing the Bureau of Education, should this be granted.

The examinations to be open to the public.

No written examination whatever to be given, but all tests to be made both in theory and practice before the examiners.

The applicants to be provided with pupils within the grade for which they desire to take the examination, to give also a test in practical teaching.

The results of the examinations to be recorded each subject separately, and the certificate to be signed by the members of the examining board.

Fee for examination \$5.00, to be sent in advance with application.

Fee for diploma \$25.00. If diploma be granted, the advance fee to be deducted.

If diploma be granted, the applicant would have to deposit the fee in advance.

The diploma to be sent by mail, as the printing of the detailed reports will require some time.

The result of the examinations to be made public in the newspapers, musical papers and magazines as well as in the *CHILD-WELFARE MAGAZINE*.

The Congress of Mothers to inform itself from time to time with the help of the chairman on music, of the efficiency and standard of music teachers, be they private or teaching in institutions.

The Congress of Mothers to keep a private classified record of same, in this way encouraging institutions to strive for betterment and work toward the satisfaction of their patrons: the children's mothers.

Examinations of applicants belonging to religious orders to be held on the same principles, but these applicants to be examined at a special examination and in conformity with the rules of the order they belong to.

During the first year, and primarily with a view of avoiding expense, it is advised that members of the Congress of Mothers make the above mentioned facts personally

known in their vicinity as much as possible.

The only outlay then to be the printing of the curriculum which the applicant will receive on demand, accompanied by his self addressed stamped envelope.

The applicant will then make himself familiar with the requirements of the examination and can prepare himself for taking the same.

It is proposed to have a certificate for elementary grade, middle grade, and advanced grade.

The applicant to give proof of having received a general education up to at least the second year of high school or its equivalent, and the examining board to be empowered to examine, if necessary, the applicants on subject of general education.

Reports of the examining board to be final and no appeal against them to be considered. However, the applicants who may have overestimated their knowledge and failed, to have the privilege to repeat the examination. In this case, they will be exempt from being examined in the secondary subjects which were satisfactorily passed at the first examination on the main subject.

Students of piano to be allowed to rehearse on the instrument they will use in performing for their test.

Names of applicants who failed in their examination not to be made public and these applicants to be advised, on their request, in what way they should improve to be better prepared for a subsequent examination.

Applicants to be forbidden to communicate in any way with the examiners relative to the examination, as the curriculum will give ample information as to the desired requirements.

The Congress of Mothers also to forbid the commercial introduction of any special course in the examination, since as stated above, only actual knowledge and capability of the applicant will have weight in the granting of the certificates ac-

cording to the requirements set forth in the curriculum.

Applicants passing successfully the required tests to be qualified whatever may be the method pursued or the teacher with whom knowledge was acquired, since the last two items are to be entirely ignored by the examiners. This with a view of placing all applicants on a fair and unbiassed position, devoid of any favoritism.

Members of the Congress of Mothers, in turn, to gladly extend those financial privileges to the music teachers, which are their just right and consequently give them the standard they deserve as qualified teachers. In case of lessons being discontinued, notice of at least a fortnight ought to be given to the teacher to enable him to fill the time. Should the teacher require it, payments to be made in advance. Lessons missed by the pupils ought to be accepted by the parents as their loss. In case of prolonged illness the parents are to use discretion in observing the rules of the respective teachers.

Having presented before you the plan, I would welcome your opinion and discussion, but ask you to give it in a broad-minded way. That is to say, not to take it from a per-

sonal standpoint, but recognize the facts which exist and that nobody can deny. To consider it a dignified effort to help raise the standard in music teaching which has become so commercialized that it is a danger to the true appreciation of art, which is a vital part of education. The present unlicensed condition of music teaching in often a disadvantage to mothers who give their money to people who cannot give money's worth.

I am not speaking against music teachers or music institutions; on the contrary, I am speaking for and advocating their betterment in knowledge and returns in finances. I hardly believe there is one father out of a hundred who occupies himself with the musical education of his daughter. It is the mother who tries to find the teacher. Very often the father does not even pay the check; it is the mother who tries to save the fee out of her own money. Should she not be protected from insufficiently prepared teachers that she may be able to get the return for her financial efforts? Frequently she cannot judge herself, but would be grateful if she could trust a certificate given for actual merit.

## The Country Boy\*

By GEORGE E. JOHNSON,

Professor of Play, School of Philanthropy, New York City

There are some things vitally essential to successful childhood, successful boyhood and girlhood, or successful youth. Failing these, by so much they fail of becoming full men and women.

*Time for Free, Large Movements.*—When the years of babyhood are passed, and the child has reached school age, more room and more toys and apparatus are needed. These children of five, six, and seven years of

age are at the height of interest in free, active plays. There must be the opportunity for large, free movements, for full exploitation of bodily control and use of the senses. The child needs to run, roll, climb, dig, drag, lift, push, and pull in order to properly develop the muscular system and the nervous system which controls it. Moreover, at this time appear peculiar phases of the constructive, imitative nature, collecting and hoarding, dra-

\* Published by permission of the Massachusetts Civic League from Leaflet No. 8.

matic and musical interests, which have an important bearing on later efficiency in these lines.

There must be the chance for sand-pile construction, sewing plays, cooking plays, housekeeping plays, doll plays, collecting and hoarding of common objects, dramatic imitation of the occupations and social customs of adults. The environment of country villages and the homes of the poor fail to supply all that is needed along these lines. Playgrounds and leaders in play work are as essential here as are the school-rooms.

*More Venturesome Play.*—Children of seven, eight, and nine years of age are beginning to play games and to require more space for play. Many of the favorite games of this age—as, for example, hide-and-seek, tag, drop-the-handkerchief, hopscotch, and simple ball games—may be played in vacant lots, in the larger dooryards, or at the corners of the streets; but the playing of such games is greatly encouraged and the dangers greatly lessened through the provision of a playground. But there is a much greater need of playgrounds for country children of these ages for other reasons. The free plays of the earlier years are continuing, on a larger, more venturesome scale. Passion for nature, which lies in every normal child's breast at this age, impels him to press beyond his former narrow bounds. He must search the earth and appropriate what he finds. It is the beginning of the 'apple-stealing period.' This passion for nature, if rightly guided, will lead to a higher and better appreciation of the world and of his own relation to it. But this passion needs direction, needs a headquarters for information and inspiration. Only rarely is such furnished the country boy, who, therefore, often remains impoverished amidst incalculable wealth and opportunity. The country playground can easily provide a "backyard fish-pond," aquarium, insect cages, aviary, and menagerie, which would furnish more information, interesting study, and incentive to look for things, probably, than the

city park and menagerie can furnish city children, because the former fall directly in the line of the child's activities and experience, and because they are largely of his own creation. But, without these aids and wise direction of the passion for nature, the vast majority of village boys miss entirely the scientific interest, loving appreciation, and moral inspiration that ought to result from contact with nature. The passion for nature finds expression in seeking, maiming, killing, destroying. Wild flowers are greedily and ruthlessly gathered, creatures are chased and slaughtered, in a kind of impetuous savagery. It is so easy to change all this. Dr. Hodge's experience with Worcester children in the matter of toad killing is a notable illustration. In "Nature Study and Life" he says:

"While walking once around a small pond, I counted two hundred toads dead or mangled and struggling in the water, and learned next day that two boys had killed three hundred more, carrying them off in an old milk-can to empty on a man's doorstep. This five hundred does not represent probably one-tenth of the number killed by the children that spring (1897) around this one pond. A 'civilization' in which such abuses of nature are possible ought to be eaten alive by insects, and something must be fundamentally wrong with a system of public education that does not render such a thing impossible. My first impulse was to get a law passed and appeal to the police; but the wiser counsel of a friend prevailed, and I was induced to try education of the children instead. Accordingly a prize of \$10 was offered to the Worcester school-child who would make the best practical study of the 'Value of the Common Toad!' This was offered March 31, 1898, and there was no evidence that a single toad was harmed at the pond the following April and May. I would have been well satisfied, had such a result been attained in five years. The fact that it came within thirty days reveals



the possibility of nature study when united to human interest."

*Tough Little Indians.*—The problem of the playground changes when we come to consider children of ten, eleven, and twelve years of age. Boys and girls cannot now so well be handled together. There must be a little more room for the games of this period. Genuine games must and will be played. These boys think less and care less about grown-up people than at any other time in their lives. They are tough little Indians, each bent on showing his own personal prowess. When they get together in unrestrained freedom and enter upon some of their games, one does not always enjoy their manners and their speech. It is a moral lesson of no mean significance when these boys learn on a "playground" to play even better ball than before and without making the air blue. I am constrained to

believe that country boys are more prone, if anything, to the evils of games than city boys.

The country playground offers a fine opportunity in the matter of gardening. It is a mistake to suppose that the children of the villages know all about gardening. Very many country children have little to do with flowers or with vegetable gardens. Certainly, the great majority of them are not well instructed in these dear delights of the initiated. The public schools, in some few towns, are beginning to do something along this line, but not very much. The public school is handicapped because it can scarcely bring its instruction to a joyful fruition. The gardens are frequently abandoned at the close of school, and the children reap small reward for their labor in vegetables at least. The playground could very successfully remedy this difficulty.

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## **The Enemy of Mosquitoes**

Now is the time to set about providing oneself with a most delightful protection from mosquitoes and preventive of house-flies, according to C. P. Shoffner, of The Liberty Bell Bird Club, who declares that martins have entirely cleared out mosquitoes in many sections of the country. "The purple martin is one of our most purely insectivorous birds," says Mr. Shoffner, "and feeds almost entirely on winged insects, which it catches in the air as it flies for hours over our orchards and gardens looking for food. It also eats large numbers of rose and May-beetles, wasps, grasshoppers, June-bugs, clover-leaf weevils, crane-flies, moths and all kinds of injurious garden insects. House and horse-flies are eaten in enormous quantities. Young martins do not fly until they are twenty-six to twenty-eight days old, which means that a great amount of food must be brought to them. A young martin is never fed when on the ground, so if a young bird falls from

the nest when no friendly human help is nigh, the young one usually starves or is caught by a cat."

The Liberty Bell Bird Club recommends that the householder put up martin boxes now to attract these beautiful friendly birds of domestic habits.

Not every one will care to go to the trouble of a Liberty Bell Bird Club member in New Jersey who constructed a twenty-two-room martin house of strips of cigar boxes; some of the strips were not more than three-eighths of an inch wide, while each strip was nicked every quarter of an inch.

The sociable and democratic martins will keep house in a soap box or barrel that has been divided into compartments, or live happily in gourd houses that swing from a high pole. They do not like to live alone, but prefer to bring up large families in a many-roomed house which has only thin partitions between the apartments of the busy, happy neighbors.

Mr. M. L. Corey, editor of the *National Hardware Bulletin*, Argos, Indiana, an enthusiastic member of The Liberty Bell Bird Club, tells in a most interesting way how he went about trying to attract the martins to build on his place when he found that the box which had previously housed the town's only martin family had almost gone to pieces. "We immediately built a house and put it up four feet above the top of our barn. The Martins found it, looked it over many times, but finally decided it would not do. The next year we changed it to another outhouse and raised it eight or ten feet above, where it was shaded and surrounded by apple and cherry limbs. The Martins apparently moved in, but spent a lot of time arguing and going on long journeys. In June they left for good and the sparrows took possession of the deserted house. Another year the same house was moved to open

ground and put on a pole twelve feet high. When the Martins came, they immediately moved in and started to housekeeping. The pesky English sparrows grow more and more troublesome as the Martins increase in number. I am satisfied the sparrows throw the Martins' eggs and young birds out of the nest when the old birds are away. The purple Martin is a sociable, happy, cleanly bird which seems to attract other desirable birds, if their enemies, the cats and the sparrows, are kept away." Mr. Corey has a colony of more than a hundred of these lovely birds.

The purple martin in its graceful yet strong flight, speeding northward at 150 to 200 miles a day, is reluctant to retreat before inhospitable weather, and so the early martins are apt to perish from starvation when the temperature drops so low that their food, which is caught on the wing, fails to fly.

## How to Summer the Baby

By HELEN MAR THOMSON

Summering the baby is not so different from wintering the baby, except that in winter he must be kept warm enough without being too warm, while in summer he must be kept cool enough, without taking cold. There are, however, some special things which can be done to add to baby's summer comfort and to prevent warm weather dangers.

Summer and winter, the mother who is careful to *keep the well baby well* will probably be saved the anxiety, expense and inconvenience of having to care for a sick baby.

One thing to remember, first of all, is this:

Do not wait until summer to learn how to summer a baby. The time to learn how to take care of a baby in summer is winter-time. In winter or in very early spring mother should prepare herself and properly equip the nursery, so that baby will

be ready for summer and mother will know what to do for baby, when summer comes.

With this bit of introduction, let us plunge at once into the essential facts which every mother should have so well in mind that she will know instantly just what to do for baby, when an emergency arises.

We cannot play any game with enjoyment or profit unless we know the game. A baby is not a nuisance or a bother or a worry—he is the greatest fun in the world if we know what to do with him. But he is a dreadfully serious proposition if we have not prepared ourselves to know how to enjoy him.

We say babies die of "summer complaint"—but what many babies really die of is *ignorance*.

As one writer puts it, "A baby is the most interesting plaything in the world." He is like an unfolding

flower, a little different, a little sweeter every day. His needs are very simple. Most of the time he can just be let alone to grow. Mother only needs to know a few essentials as to his daily care, in order to help him to thrive and grow and *keep well*, just as she must know how to care for her sewing machine in order to get peasurable results from it.

There is this one great difference between failure to care for baby and failure in other duties: If a woman fails as a teacher, she loses her position; but if she fails in caring for a baby—she loses *the baby*. In fact, so often does mother lose *the baby* that we have the appalling record of one baby in five dying every year in average localities. In the United States, 300,000 babies, under one year of age, die every year. Quite an army! In Chile, 323 babies die out of every thousand. In New Zealand, where splendid child-welfare work has been done, the death rate of infants has been reduced from 71 out of every thousand, to 51 out of every thousand, annually. In New York, the rate is about 96 out of every thousand, while the average for the United States is now about 165 out of every thousand, or one in six.

The above figures show, at least, the great need of knowledge on the part of mother. The knowledge needed is not how to cure baby when sick—that is the doctor's task—but nearly every mother needs more knowledge concerning the every-day care of baby, that she may *keep the well baby well*.

#### CLEANLINESS THE KEYNOTE

In everything that pertains to baby, cleanliness is the keynote. The air he breathes, the clothes he wears, the food he takes, everything that comes in contact with baby or that has anything to do with him, directly or indirectly, *must be clean*. The house in which he lives, the street and the yard near him, the people around him, his body, his clothing, his room, all must be clean, *clean*. "A dirty baby is

sure sooner or later, to be a sick baby." The habit of cleanliness, too, established in the first months and the early years of childhood, will make him want to keep clean, when he is older, just as early habits of order and helpfulness make him "instinctively" orderly and useful in later years.

#### A FEW SAFETY POINTS

Here are a few never-to-be-neglected points, for example:

Keep the cellar clean and *dry*. Don't have one musty or neglected corner. A cellar that gets damp after a rain may cause diphtheria and other dangerous ills. If you are living in a rented house and cannot get the landlord to make needed repairs, just quietly report the matter to your city or town health department. Inside of fifteen days, your trouble will most likely have been corrected, for the landlord will be obliged to comply with the notice which the health department will send him.

Be sure this is also true of your yard.

Cover the garbage can. Wash it out every time it is emptied, using *hot*, soapy water. Then throw in a little chloride of lime. It is a good idea to plant pennyroyal and other mints in the vicinity of the garbage can. Mints are wholesome to have in the yard, and flies do not like them.

Do not let the baby crawl around on a dirty floor or a dusty carpet. Keep him on a clean sheet or blanket. The nursery "fence," which keeps baby in a tiny yard of his own, yet allows him a chance to exercise, is excellent. This may be purchased or made at a near-by mill, to enclose a space four feet square and can be easily moved from one room to another, or folded away, when not in use. An old, clean quilt, or pad, on the floor, within the enclosure, is a good idea, as mother can then be sure baby is not getting germs from the floor—that is, if mother keeps the pad sweet and clean.

Keep toys and pacifiers out of

baby's mouth. If he never has a pacifier or "soother," he will never miss it. Not only is the pacifier a carrier of dirt and germs, but the constant sucking makes the roof, or arch of baby's mouth grow narrow, causing many nose and throat troubles in after life, and spoiling the singing voice. The pacifier is not necessary. *Don't* give it to baby.

Keep flies away from baby and his food. If a fly lights on the nipple of baby's bottle, remove the nipple, drop it into boiling water for three minutes and rinse in boric acid solution before allowing baby to put it in his mouth again.

Keep soiled diapers in a closely covered pail of cold water until you have time to wash them out. A new small sized, galvanized garbage pail, having close cover, is excellent for this purpose. The diapers should be washed out twice a day and thoroughly aired in drying. Never put a diaper that has been wet back upon the baby until it has been rinsed out, dried and thoroughly aired. Especially in summer, careful cleansing of the diapers will help to prevent chafing. Do not use rubber diapers. They are uncomfortable, irritating and dangerous, often causing serious troubles impossible to cure.

Keep the toilet seat clean, and covered. Keep inside of toilet bowl scoured white. This can be done easily by frequent use of a closet-brush. If there are brown deposits on the inside of bowl, put a little hydrochloric acid into water in the closet, let stand over night; in the morning flush out bowl and scrub with "gold dust" and hot water. Washing powders are great helath preservatives.

Cats and dogs are dangerous to a baby. They bring sickness.

Do not allow dirty dishes to stand in dining room or kitchen. They draw flies and roaches.

Buy mosquito netting for baby's crib, carriage and windows.

Don't let anyone handle and kiss your baby. Let baby sleep in the

room adjoining yours, rather than in the room with any older person.

Do not sweep or dust when baby is in the room. Dust is dry dirt and is dangerous to baby.

Do not take baby to funerals or into sick rooms.

Do not take baby to picture shows or any crowded places. Do not take him into street cars any more than you can help.

Do not keep baby awake nights. The mother and father who deny themselves evening outings for baby's sake will be abundantly rewarded in the good nature, steady nerves and sturdy limbs of the boy or girl who has been sent to the land of Nod early, and regularly. These evenings at home are good for father and mother, too, in these days of rush and worry. Even when friends are expected as guests, however, see to it that the baby is in bed and asleep at the regular time, even if the "company" have to entertain themselves for a few moments while mother bathes her little one and tucks him away for his night of health-giving sleep.

#### THE BREAST FED BABE IN SUMMER

Fortunate are the babies fed upon breast milk, especially in summer. Severe diarrhea is seldom known to such babies. If the breast-fed babe has food troubles, it is probably because it is fed too much, or too often. Or the mother may be so ill or tired that the quality of her milk is not good. The four-hour feeding is now generally accepted as the best feeding period and the mother who will strictly adhere to regular times for feeding her babe will have a stronger, healthier, better-natured child and will be better herself. In hot weather, especially, the baby is better for the less frequent feeding. Cooled boiled water may be given freely between feedings.

#### CARE OF BOTTLES IN SUMMER

It is the bottle-fed baby that is most likely to have summer troubles and these are usually more severe



when the baby is fed from a bottle than when breast-fed.

Milk used for the baby should be clean, healthy milk. It should be the certified milk, when possible; if not, it must be either pasteurized or boiled. Baby's milk must be kept *cold*. All bottles should be filled with cold water as soon as used. Each morning the cold water should be emptied out and the inside of bottle thoroughly washed in gold dust and hot water using bottle brush to cleanse all corners and curves. Rinse in hot water to remove all soap, fill with hot water and lay in a clean kettle of clean hot water. When all the bottles for the day are thus immersed in the kettle of water, bring slowly to a boil and allow to *boil* for five minutes. Wash nipples and drop them into the boiling water for three minutes.

Then lift nipples out with a clean spoon and put them into a clean cup of fresh boric acid solution. Cover tightly. A jelly jar, which can also be boiled and kept perfectly clean, is excellent for keeping nipples in, always keeping the jar filled with fresh boric acid solution.

Remove bottles from hot water, wipe with a clean wiper, place a tuft of fresh absorbent cotton in the mouth of each bottle, and allow to cool until the day's supply of food can be prepared, when the bottles should be filled, tightly plugged with the absorbent cotton and set into the coolest compartment of refrigerator. Each bottle of food, when needed, can be brought to lukewarm temperature by setting bottle into a pitcher or quart measure containing warm water.

In very hot weather baby's food needs to be more diluted than in winter, and plenty of cool, boiled water given to baby between feedings. Baby's water supply should be kept in a sterilized (boiled) bottle, tightly plugged with a sterilized cork or fresh absorbent cotton and kept in the refrigerator.

Never give a baby water that contains ice.

It is always best to consult a doctor or the nearest child-welfare or milk supply station, or a visiting nurse, when any change in baby's food is contemplated.

#### SUMMER COMPLAINT

The following suggestions regarding summer complaint, or diarrhea, are quoted from an excellent pamphlet "Save the Babies," written by L. Emmett Holt, M.D., and Harry L. K. Shaw, M.D., both eminent specialists in the care and treatment of children.

"It is easier to prevent diarrhea than to cure it.

"The important means of preventing severe diarrhea are:

"1. Boil all milk in summer.

"2. Dilute the baby's food in very hot spells.

"3. Stop the food at once, if acute diarrhea begins.

"If the movements become loose and only two or three a day, do not neglect it because the baby happens to be teething; it may mean the beginning of a serious illness.

"Dilute the food with an equal amount of boiled water and give less than the usual amount at a feeding.

"If the movements are more frequent and there is vomiting or fever, stop all food at once and give only boiled water, and call a doctor.

"After twelve hours without food, barley water, made one tablespoonful to one pint, may be given.

"Proper treatment at the beginning of an attack is worth more than many days' treatment later."

#### KEEP THE BABY COMFORTABLE

The idea that baby must have wool next to the skin is a pretty well exploded theory. But even when the silk and wool band is used all summer, baby need not be bundled up in a lot of unnecessary clothing. There is but one *comfortable* way of dressing baby, winter or summer, and that is the pinless-buttonless way. With the clothing neatly and securely tied, there is no danger

from safety pins, or from a wrong pull on the tender, pliable shoulders.

Be careful baby is not in a draught; then take off all but the band and diaper, or a cotton undershirt and diaper, powder him well and let him kick and be happy.

"Keep your baby out of doors and you'll keep your baby," says another eminent specialist. Plenty of fresh air during the first weeks and months of baby's life will give him a whooping boost. Set his carriage or bassinet in a shaded corner of the porch, if you have one, or in a shaded corner of the yard, and keep him there, from morning until night except in extremely hot days, when he may be better off in the house during the middle of the day. Do not forget, however, to protect him from the dangerous fly, by throwing mosquito netting over him, especially when sleeping or taking his bottle. By the way, there is no better bassinet than a large sized clothes basket lined with a sheet and containing a pillow, preferably filled with curled hair. This is easy to move about and is easily aired and kept sweet and clean.

#### WARM WEATHER BATHS

Avoid soap in baby's summer bath. A teaspoonful of bicarbonate of soda in the bath water is an agreeable substitute for soap. It softens the water and is delightfully cooling to baby's skin. There must always be the morning tub bath and a sponge bath at evening. On very warm days an extra sponging, perhaps just before the afternoon sleep, will add to baby's comfort.

Do not be afraid of using powder. Scatter it freely under arms and under the knees, between the little legs, around the neck, and all over the back. Nothing delights baby more than a powder bath and as soon as he can talk he will beg for it.

#### BABY'S AIRING

Lying still in the fresh air is good, but not sufficient. Baby needs change of scene and the exercise

that he gets moving about in his carriage during strolls through shaded streets and parks—strolls that do mother as much good as they do baby. Be careful not to pass through streets burning with heat, however, or blazing with reflected rays of the sun. It is better, on very warm days, to let baby's outings be taken before eleven and after three. During the hottest part of the day, the out-door sleep may be abandoned for the cooler atmosphere of in-doors. Keep the house cool by nearly closing the windows early in the morning. Leave them open about an inch to permit a circulation of air; draw the shades clear down on the sunny side. Do not open the windows until after four or even five in the afternoon, and you will have a house delightfully cool during the day, and cool to sleep in at night.

#### TREAT THE BABY RIGHT

Do not be afraid to treat your baby as though he were a welcome member of your household. Do not be afraid of him. With all the care that is needed in order to protect him from the dangers that beset him from every side, yet do not be afraid to treat him just as though he were a real, live person, for that is what he is. Talk to him, brightly, and allow others to do so, but always without overexciting him. Never allow him to be rocked, jounced or tossed. A droll little woman once pertinently remarked that she would not care to be swung like a churn just after dinner, and she could never see why a baby would like it. There is the very idea; put yourself in baby's place, once in awhile, and see if you would like the things you do to him. Above all things, when baby frets and seems unreasonably cross, remember that he probably thinks you are very stupid not to know better than to do the thing you have probably done that is causing his discomfort, external or internal. There is a cause for baby's every cry. If you have spoiled him you have double cause to be patient

with the poor little victim, and remember that as you keep your disposition sweet, your baby's disposition will be sweet; and that as you are patient, contented and gentle, your baby will be patient, contented and gentle.

After all, just plain common sense, plus absolute cleanliness are the two chief factors necessary for the successful care of baby, summer or winter. And what is common sense, after all, but practical knowledge? Of this there cannot be too much. Ignorance is the one thing that is inexcusable in these days, when even the inexperienced mother and the over-burdened "little mothers" may receive dependable information without any cost.

The alert and careful mother will

improve every opportunity to read the numerous excellent pamphlets and books intended as helps in the care of the baby, but the wise mother will not follow any radical instructions, whether gained from books, papers or from the lips of well-meaning friends and relatives, until she has first asked her physician if he approves. The doctor's advice should often be sought, even if baby seems perfectly well. A hint from the doctor often gives mother just the needed cue, in keeping baby "on the gain." Better a number of doctor's calls for the well baby than one when it is too late. Best of all is the great joy and satisfaction which are mother's reward for joining the great modern, world-wide crusade, the motive of which is to *keep the well baby well.*

## Early Lessons in Temperance

By MAUDE LAWRENCE WESTCOTT

In the dark day when the heart is wrung by the first staggering footstep, the first taint of the Alcohol Demon's breath on the lips of the boy of our love and hopes—in this evil hour, the queries of anxious parenthood pour in remorselessly upon the mind: "How could this have been prevented? Wherein have I failed in my duty to him? What is now to be done?" And in this great crisis, the last question seems the one of paramount importance, and the answers that suggest themselves are eagerly clutched at with the despairing hope of the drowning: "Get him to sign the pledge; pin the white ribbon to his coat; reason, lecture, plead!" By some or all of these means you may succeed. This period of wild-oats-sowing may pass without lifelong effect. But there is the other side to the picture: the bars once down may never be replaced; the upward trend is not readily recovered. Your great opportunity to help him is not now, whatever the strength of your love may accomplish at the

eleventh hour; it was given you in the years gone by when the lesson of self-control, the "Be-ye-temperate-in-all-things" motto should have been part of his daily training. When we trace the dire result back to its cause, we have it there. There is no god of Chance. No "luck" attends the path of the mother of splendid sons and daughters. Good heredity counts of course. Environment and training (both controlled to great extent by the parents) do their full half in the work of evolving strong, controlled character.

Total abstinence may be the only effective weapon against an evil that has established a strong grip, but temperance (moderation) ingrained in all the habits of life is a safer insurance against the day when the tempests of strong emotion and temptation assail.

The child taught self-control in his appetite, his pleasures, his temper and all of the acts that go to form the habits of life, is building his house of character on the rocks that will

endure the stress of wave and wind, while his pampered brother, every impulse indulged, has only a foundation of shifting sand for his life's structure, and woe to him when the forces of youth, undammed, would sweep him into the current that bears outward!

Who then is largely responsible for the failure of adolescence to hold to its ideals, to repulse the suggestions of evil, so strong in their allurements at this time? Is it not the shortsighted parent who allows Johnnie free access to the pantry shelf at all hours of the day, that he may stuff himself to repletion unchecked; who offers Jamie the bag of candy, without restriction, to stop his tears; who allows to one child unstinted pocket-money; to another excessive and extravagant raiment, and ignores uncurbed tempers, lawless tendencies and dominating wills in the family midst? Of course the tolerance of all these evils could hardly be chargeable to any one mother, but in failure to teach some of these great lessons of self-control and moderation in everything, "we all of us have erred, and fallen short" of the possibilities that by stretching out we might have grasped.

There are so many ways, constructively speaking, by which training in temperance, in its broader sense, may

be effected! Regular hours for feeding, sleeping and bathing will start the infant on the right road. Regularity as to meals; sufficient number of hours for sleep; pleasure and work in proper proportion; questionable foods, pleasures, etc., vetoed—all help the growing child in his development into a law-abiding citizen. The habit of saving for some object, putting aside a portion of his own money for some future purposes also strengthens his powers of self mastery, while the lesson of "thinking twice" before gratifying every passing whim, will prove valuable in the future when the decision between present gratification and future gain must be daily made.

Strength of moral fiber cannot go hand in hand with inordinate self-indulgence. There must be restraints thrown around childhood's years. Not harshness, unkind treatment nor neglect, but a reasoning firmness and a wise, sympathetic repression. The kind of training that is not obtrusive, that suggests the right course, thereby giving the child a chance to exercise its own will, rather than demands it. The little soul that has learned the maxim "To thine own self be true" has a power within itself to conquer evil which far outweighs the strength of volumes of admonition and counsel.



## **Program for Parent-Teacher Associations for July**

The Programs given from month to month require the service of three members of the association for each meeting. They develop home talent, at the same time providing papers of educational value in child-nurture. They ensure a high standard for the season's meetings, and awaken wider interest in child-welfare as the members learn of the movement throughout the world.

**FIRST TOPIC** (To be read by one member).

VACATION DAYS. PRESIDENT'S DESK.

IMMIGRANT MOTHERS NEED TO LEARN ENGLISH.

**SECOND TOPIC** (To be assigned to another member).

WHAT OTHER PARENT-TEACHER ASSOCIATIONS ARE DOING. See STATE NEWS.

**THIRD TOPIC** (To be assigned to third member).

CURRENT NEWS OF WORK FOR CHILD-WELFARE, gleaned from all sources, both local and international.

### **LOAN PAPERS ON CHILD-NURTURE**

Send for the printed list of Loan Papers on Child Nurture and Child Welfare prepared especially for program use. The list will be sent free, provided stamp is enclosed. The papers are type-written. Twelve may be selected and kept for the season at a cost of \$2.00.

They have been written by specialists to meet the needs of parents in dealing with problems of child life at different stages of its development. Single papers will be sent for twenty-five cents and may be kept three weeks. Many new papers have been added to the list.

The Report of Third International Congress on Child-Welfare contains a wealth of material for use in Parent-Teacher Associations. Price \$1.00 to Parent-Teacher Associations. Send orders to National Congress of Mothers and Parent-Teacher Associations, 910 Loan and Trust Building, Washington, D C.

### **BOOKS FOR PARENTS**

A list of 25 books suitable for use of parents will be sent to those who desire it. A Circle of 25 members can have a valuable circulating library if each member can buy just one book, or these books may often be secured from the Library.

## Work for Child Welfare by Parents and Teachers in National Congress of Mothers and Parent-Teacher Associations

### STATE NEWS

#### IMPORTANT NOTICES

News items from the States must be in the hands of the editorial board by the tenth of the previous month to ensure their appearance in the next magazine. The editorial board earnestly asks attention to the necessity of complying with this rule.

The magazine invites wider correspondence with local circles and associations. Send us reports of what you are doing. It will be helpful to others.

The necessity for brevity will be realized, as space is limited and every month more states send news. News is WORK DONE, OR NEW WORK PLANNED. Communications must be written with ink or typewritten.

The CHILD-WELFARE MAGAZINE offers to every new circle of fifty members one year's subscription free provided that with the application for the magazine is enclosed a receipt from state treasurer showing that dues of ten cents per capita have been paid, and second a list of officers and members with their addresses.

This offer is made to aid new circles with their program and to give them the opportunity to become acquainted with the great organized parenthood of America.

#### ALABAMA

At a meeting of the board of managers of the Alabama Congress of Mothers and Parent-Teacher Associations several organizers were appointed to organize in different parts of the state.

##### PRATTVILLE

Mothers' Circle of Prattville (Mrs. H. S. Doster, president) meets twice a month, and frequently shares its feast of good things by inviting many ladies from the town who are not members. Mrs. P. W. Hodges, president of the Montgomery Mothers' Circle, at the last meeting talked feelingly on what the organization had meant to her, and had found its principles so comprehensive and satisfying that she could say with Paul "This *one thing* I do." She gave, also, such an effective account of her trip to Nashville where she represented Alabama in the National Congress in its annual meeting, as to intensify the regret all had felt in not being able to attend. Mrs. Chambers advised carrying home from each club meeting at least *one* idea which could be put into practical use in the home, and followed this with an interesting account of some work she had done with Montgomery school children in an "Anti-Grippe Campaign." The subject of the day was "The Montessori System of Education." One member, Mrs. W. T. Northington, who had given much time to observing the work of Madame Montessori in her school on the Exposition Grounds, gave the leading paper. Attention was called to the fact that Alabama has a school which is attracting national attention—The Organic School at Fairhope on Mobile Bay

conducted by Mrs. Johnson. The meeting was held at the country home of Mrs. W. S. Fair, who always entertains the club in rose season.

The Prattville Circle is beginning its fifth year's work, and the influence of the club on the lives of the individual members and the community is deep and far reaching.

##### GREENVILLE

The Mothers' Self Culture Club, Mrs. J. C. Richardson, president, entertained the fathers Friday evening, May 12, at the home of Mrs. J. L. Bryan.

##### MONTGOMERY

Two new circles have been organized, the Mothers' Round Table, which elected as president Mrs. C. A. Bowen, of the Woman's College, and The United Mothers, which chose Mrs. O. C. Humphrey as president. The United Mothers made up a club of five subscribers to the CHILD-WELFARE MAGAZINE the day the organization was completed. Both circles begin their existence as members of the state congress. Both have a membership limit of fifty, which will probably be reached by fall, when active work will begin. Prospectus committees have been appointed who will plan next year's work during the summer. Committees are being appointed, also, to correspond and cooperate with the various congress departments.

At the last meeting of the Mothers' Circle the Child Hygiene Committee sent a donation to help another organization support a visiting nurse in Montgomery.

Mrs. W. B. Friedman, the incoming

president, on behalf of the circle, presented Mrs. P. W. Hodges, the president, with a beautiful gold friendship circle engraved with the words "Mothers' Circle." Mrs. Hodges has endeared herself to all the members. Under her able leadership and with her never-failing enthusiasm, the circle has had a most successful year. She goes to Dothan in the early fall to make her home.

New year books of the circle may be had by calling at the library.

A new circle, organized by Mrs. Andrews in Centerville, is the latest addition to the congress.

The state president, Mrs. Hardeman, on account of the illness of her husband, will have to suspend for a while her activities in the congress. Mrs. N. L. Bagley, of Birmingham, first vice-president, will have charge of the work during the summer.

### CALIFORNIA

#### Annual State Convention in Santa Ana— Conference Second District in Berkeley

Fifteen new circles have been accepted as members. These come from Santa Barbara, Santa Ana, Orange, San Francisco, Geysersville, Pomona and Sacramento.

An increase of nearly fifteen thousand members during the past year was reported today by the State Congress of Mothers, comprising every Parent-Teacher Association in California, which opened its seventeenth annual meeting at the intermediate school auditorium in Santa Ana, May 24 and 25, with upwards of 200 delegates present.

The convention was called to order by the president, Mrs. H. N. Rowell, Berkeley, and all joined in singing "America," followed by the invocation by the Rev. J. G. Kennedy, who gave a glorious tribute to mothers. All arose and gave allegiance to the flag in a very impressive manner.

Greetings to the delegates were extended by Prof. J. A. Cranston, city superintendent of schools, who lauded the parent-teacher associations for their very effective work. This was followed by greetings extended by Mrs. G. H. Goodale of Anaheim, president fourth district C. C. M. C., extending to the delegates an invitation to visit the class rooms in the school, the Orange County beaches, and Orange County park to show the visitors the varied beauties of Orange County.

The response was given by Mrs. A. L. Whitman, president second district C. C. M. C. The report on rules and regulations was given by Mrs. E. D. Taylor.

212 duly accredited delegates and a total number of 400 persons were present, repre-

senting parent-teacher associations in all parts of the state.

A most interesting and instructive talk on "Thrift" was given by Prof. E. W. Hauck, principal of the Anaheim high school, who said that "thrift means 16 ounces to the pound and 36 inches to the yard."

"As 85 per cent. of the people over 65 years of age are dependent upon others for support, each one must plan to save enough for his care late in life. These conditions must be given considerable thought, for action without thought is as bad as thought without action."

Mrs. Frank Gibson gave a splendid address on "The Home Teachers." She urged the passage of the home teachers law, and to have teachers to visit the homes, especially the homes of immigrants, to teach the mothers to cooperate with them in the school work.

One of the objects of the home teachers law is to teach the others to make a very small income provide for a family. One third of our population is foreign-born, said Mrs. Gibson, causing illiteracy, there being 75,000 illiterates in California alone, and as many more who cannot speak our language.

President Rowell was given authority to appoint committees to confer with school boards on the question.

Dr. Margaret Schellenberger McNaught, of San Francisco, is an enthusiastic worker for the parent-teacher association cause, and gave an instructive address on "Parent-Teacher Clubs and the Elementary Schools," urging all to work for the association in all schools. She said the northern part of the state is not as enthusiastic as the southern part. The greatest improvements during the past year were made in Placer County, and Dr. McNaught feels that all that is needed in the north is someone to show them the great good done by the parent-teacher association.

Dr. McNaught said 80,000 high-school students get one third of the school money, 500,000 elementary school pupils get two thirds. She spoke in favor of the consolidated schools, making it possible for many rural schools to have the advantages of domestic science and manual training. She said there are now 25 consolidations in the state.

Following this meeting, an automobile trip was enjoyed in machines provided by the Chamber of Commerce.

The delegates were shown the many splendid schools in Santa Ana, Anaheim and Fullerton, and were greatly pleased with the splendid educational and social advantages found here. A supper was served at

the Congregational Church following the auto trip.

The thanks of the congress of mothers was extended Alan Revill, of the Congregational Church, for the organ music during the supper and to Miss Anna Irene Jenkins, of Los Angeles, for vocal selection.

#### DELIGHTFUL EVENING PROGRAM

A delightful program, prepared by the Santa Ana Parent-Teachers' Federation, was given.

Eloquent greetings to delegates were given by Mayor A. J. Visel, Superintendent J. A. Cranston and Mrs. F. H. McElree, president Parent-Teachers' Federation. Response was given by Mrs. Rowell, state president. A dumb-bell drill was given by intermediate girls, under direction of Miss Nell Marie Remsberg; Scene from Shakespeare's "Julius Caesar" by intermediate pupils under direction of Miss Peterson; butterfly drill by Roosevelt pupils under direction of Miss Cornell, and Diana's Folk Dance by intermediate girls under direction of Miss Remsberg.

The music features included numbers by the intermediate orchestra under direction of Professor Harry Garstang; music by high-school girls' glee club under direction of Miss Ely, and whistling solo by Miss Rena Cranston.

The morning session was opened at 10 o'clock, all present joining in singing the beautiful song, "My Tribute," written by Mrs. Milton B. Higgins and dedicated to the National Congress of Mothers.

The subject of the Smith-Lever Bill was discussed. The bill provides for agriculture and economic lines. A question was the furnishing of school lunches being furnished by the schools just as text books. The question came to a motion, which was lost.

The report of the credentials committee showed 233 accredited delegates present today. The adoption of amendments to the by-laws took up the greater part of the morning session, all amendments proposed being adopted.

Mrs. J. R. Hutchinson, of Glendale Federation, gave her report of the work in Glendale, which proved very interesting.

Mrs. C. C. Noble, of Los Angeles, chairman of the membership board, made her report also. She urged the members to send to Washington, D. C., for the free printed literature to more thoroughly understand the work of the parent-teacher associations. Her report showed a membership of the state association at the present time of 18,440, or a gain during the past year of 1722. One hundred four new associations

have been organized. Adjournment was taken for luncheon, served at the Congregational Church.

The first and only baby show was reported by Mrs. T. G. Lettle, of Watts.

Berkeley reported that all but two schools have parent-teacher associations. A novel plan to raise money to send tubercular children to the camp provided for them has been the selling of waste paper, over sixteen tons having been sold.

San Francisco reported free clinic work. San Joaquin parent-teacher associations have recently held a very successful community fair. Mrs. J. A. Hyde, of San Diego, told of the efforts of the parent-teacher associations to secure a hospital. San Gabriel, Garvanja and Santa Ana all report good work. An auxiliary for the Mexican mothers has been formed in the Roosevelt school at Santa Ana.

Dr. Bartlett, of Pomona, spoke on Vocational Education. He fully believes that in getting in personal touch with the child, finding out each one's needs, getting in touch with the soul,—will, to a great extent, keep the boys in school beyond the sixth grade.

"As 82 out of every 100 pupils do not finish school," said Dr. Bartlett, "some readjustment of the schools must be made to fit the present needs. I believe in teaching the different vocations and giving each child a chance to find his vocation. I believe that the mothers should assist in teaching the girls—particularly the greatest vocation—Motherhood."

Mrs. Donald Green talked on county libraries, saying their object is to give the best books and the greatest number at the least cost. She believes there should be a closer union between the average parent-teacher association and the library.

Proposed legislation for women was ably discussed by Dr. Jessie A. Russell, and the subjects of juvenile court and probation were taken up. Dr. Russell is engaged in court work in Los Angeles, and is well posted on this subject.

"The scope of action of the Department of Juvenile Court and Probation of the California Congress of Mothers is coöperation with parents, judges of the juvenile courts, and the probation departments in the various counties," she said, "many federations have appointed chairmen for this department, and found it of great assistance in their work."

"The principal object is to reduce the number of cases brought into court and at the same time to safeguard the interests of the child and the community. A large percentage of the children who are now wards



of the juvenile court are mentally or physically defectives. Because of lack of proper training and protection it is probable a bill will be introduced at the coming session of the legislature to provide proper environment and training for this type of child.

"The present law, drafted by the committee of fifteen appointed from different parts of the state, contains many features not incorporated in any other juvenile law, notably that clause providing in certain communities for women referees to act in judicial capacity to pass upon cases of girls. Los Angeles has appointed such referee, Arpha Jean Shontz, a young woman attorney, and all attaches are women. This is the first court of its kind in the United States."

Invitations for holding the next annual convention were presented by San Jose, Sacramento and Bakersfield. The executive board will decide upon the next meeting place.

#### BERKELEY

#### Conference of Second District California Congress—Over 700 Women Attend

The convention convened in Berkeley with Mrs. A. L. Whitman in the chair. There were 198 delegates in attendance from the counties comprising the district—Alameda, San Francisco, Marin, Contra Costa, Sonoma, Solano and Santa Cruz. There were also sixteen representatives from San Jose district, which includes Santa Clara County, organized two months ago into the sixth district with twenty-eight clubs.

*Characteristics.*—The convention was characterized by closer adherence to the main object of the mothers' clubs, the home and the school. The note of coöperation between these forces was more strongly accentuated than ever before and there appeared through reports and speeches a better working understanding between these two forces which make for the betterment of the schools.

Mrs. J. E. Wilson, membership chairman, reported that there were 934 members in the Berkeley Federation, being an increase of four new circles with 374 new members. Oakland added 262 members and San Francisco almost a thousand since the last convention. The kindergarten chairman urged that the kindergarten be pressed until there was a kindergarten in every public school of California. President G. E. Gallagher, of the San Francisco Board of Education, Dr. A. S. Kelly, of the Oakland Board, President W. B. Herms, of Berkeley, Superintendent Cloud of San Mateo Board of Education, and Mrs. W. H. Marston, vice-president of the district, gave the point of view of school boards. The dominant note from all the speakers was that mothers unite

in action on that part of the work which concerns them and acquaint themselves with the work of the boards of education and the teachers and support and strengthen them in their work.

Professor Herms said in part: "The work of the school board dovetails as it were into the work of the teacher and into the work of the home, and can only be truly successful when all concerned coöperate to the fullest extent. With the school board holding one view, the principal or teacher another and the parent a third, no real progress can well be made, indeed the result must be detrimental. And this may verily be the greatest weakness in our system of public schools, hence the wide existence and success of private schools. The private school caters to the will and desire of the parent in order to succeed.

It must be recognized that with the origin of our school children from so many different homes there must be wide differences in opinion as to just how the school shall operate and what is best for the individual child. Now the parent ought to know what is best for his or her child, but this is not always true, parental love may actually accomplish that which is worst. Hence the necessity for parents, both mothers and fathers, to get together and in joint council thresh out the problems of childhood and meeting occasionally with the board of education or by representation regularly, transmit to the latter the results of careful deliberation.

In the matters of wide importance I am emphatically in favor of having such suggestions come through the channels of wider representation, for example such a body as is meeting here today. Such matters as the dance question could, as far as recommendations go, be crystallized by resolution right here.

School problems are becoming more and more complex as the problems of the home are being delegated to the schools. Therefore it is necessary that boards of education get more and more the viewpoint of the home, and in what better way can this be secured than through the coöperation of the mothers' clubs whose members know the problems of the home. But in all this have mercy on the board of education and remember that there are many problems which should never be turned over to this body. There is nothing, not even the school, that will take the place of the home and mother.

*Medical Inspection.*—Dr. Kelly, who has been a member of the Oakland board for nine years, said that the work of the mothers' clubs was to bring the mothers in harmony

with the work of the board which must be for the good of the greatest number. Leave educational things, he advised, to educational experts. The child of today, he said, is not satisfied with the amusements of years ago and one of the greatest advances in the social structure of today is the fact that the mothers enter into the causes which form the fundamental springs of the child social life. President Gallagher of San Francisco strongly urged medical inspection in the schools on the grounds that a physically neglected child determines the rate of progress of another child, taking from that other child some portion of the teachers' time, energy and thought—invades another child's parental rights. "Shall there be the right of invasion for harm without the right of invasion for cure?" he asked. "Compulsory education has fixed the right of good to root evil regardless of the small concepts of liberty."

*Officers.*—Mrs. A. L. Whitman was re-elected president of the district, and Mrs. Florence R. Hartell, San Francisco, first vice-president.

### COLORADO

#### Physical Culture for Mothers—Plea for Teachers' Day—Penny Milk Station Established

Several new and distinctive features have characterized the work in Colorado in the last few months. Among these were the physical education classes for mothers and the penny milk station fund of Denver and the Teachers' Day, inaugurated by Pueblo District.

The physical education classes have developed 200 of our women beyond belief. They have produced a latent sense of good fellowship among the members and stimulated and renewed a youthful spirit, which can not fail to bring a kinship with the young people in the families of these mothers. The courses ended with a grand evening frolic, with folk dancing and cotillion favors. It was an unforgettable evening and will long remain a delightful memory for those who participated and those who witnessed the rejuvenation of the classes. Women from seventeen to seventy took part in the games and dances and were as happy with their balloons as children of seven.

The penny milk fund has raised enough money for one station, which will soon be in operation. This philanthropy is especially suited to the needs of Denver, because of the large number of tuberculous poor, whose children are often insufficiently nourished. Milk at a penny-a-glass will mean a definite improvement in their diet.

Teachers' Day was originated in the Pueblo District, but has been celebrated in many communities and always with marked success. Different methods of doing the teachers honor have been used in different circles. Some have given luncheons at hotels for their teachers; others have banqueted them in schools or homes. The very fact that so many patrons have eagerly grasped at the idea of showing their appreciation of the teacher's work for their children, proves that all the parents need is to be told what to do and they happily proceed to show their love for the teacher of their children. Once more, we recommend this as a national custom and ask that a day be set aside when our entire association will act in unison in honoring the teachers of this country.

Another work that has occupied several associations is home gardening. In Denver 5,000 children are pledged to do such work this summer. It is gratifying to see the beautiful coöperation given by the school principals. One of these, Prof. P. L. Clark, of Berkeley School, has assumed the general leadership—often lecturing with practical illustrations that the city garden leaders might have the proper instruction, by which to conduct their work in their several districts.

Clean-up Week has been very well managed this year in Denver and seems to have become a permanent feature of each year's work. The general chairman was a graduate from the Mothers' Congress work. Mrs. Harry Wood was the delegate who was commissioned to do the congress duties in Clean-up Week four years ago, and since proven herself so efficient that this year she was made general manager for the city. According to her report, school principals claim that the "movement is growing more popular each year, that it is a good training for the young and parents are often taught cleanliness through their children." "The fire chief," she states, "claims a decided decrease in fire loss, resulting in lower insurance rates. The superintendent of street cleaning reports a cleaner city and the principals say there is less sickness among the children."

In this campaign 43 schools participated. The schools which rated the highest received pictures as prizes. 10,907 children participated in the clean-up campaign; 3,956 basements were cleaned; 1,245 attics were cleaned; 6,430 yards were cleaned; 3,314 lawns were cut; 5,013 flower beds were made; 5,043 plants were exchanged; 10,907 children helped to destroy dandelions; 1,260 houses painted inside; 520 houses painted outside; 742 porches painted; 1,437 pieces

of furniture re-touched; 512 fences painted; 411 sheds painted; 5,541 backyard gardens made; 3,312 vacant lots cleaned; 1,150 vacant lots planted with grain; 314 vacant lots planted with gardens.

This array of figures will serve to show the possibilities under such a concerted public movement.

The Alcott Parent-Teacher Association had the largest meeting in May of which we have any record in the state. Almost 1,000 people were in attendance. It was an evening affair and combined school exhibit, program and reception. Perfect coöperation in preparation and in receiving made a unit of the parents and teachers. The city superintendent and his wife were the guests of honor. Especially noticeable was the large number of students of the high school who were graduates of the Alcott School and their beautiful reverence for their first alma mater and their courtesies to the present pupils. "It was like the meeting of a big happy family," said the principal. "It couldn't have been done without the helpfulness of the parents and the kindly spirit existing between them and the teachers." This beautiful meeting is an example of what can be done by a well-operated parent-teacher association and may well be a model for action everywhere.

Fifty dollars has been set aside by the Colorado State Congress as a nucleus for an educational loan fund for boys and it is expected that each organization in the state will contribute its *pro rata* toward this fund. The annual meeting of the state congress will be held in October in Denver. Many new circles have been formed, each district doing its part toward extending the good work. A lecture bureau is being prepared to coöperate with the state educational institutes. Several of the county superintendents have written to welcome this new system. Our lectures will explain the aims and purposes of our organization to the teachers attending these institutes and so spread the message of our work.

### ILLINOIS

It was a happy thought which placed the state convention in Cairo, immediately following the national at Nashville, and the Illinois meeting was remarkable in that there were three national officers and four state presidents attending this convention. Their presence at the convention, their interest and helpful suggestions added much of value as well as pleasure to the meetings. The feeling that Illinois is just one part of a great work was impressed upon each one, and an impulse for large and better work

was taken to her home association by each delegate.

The Cairo people welcomed the delegates and visitors with true southern hospitality. The boat trip on the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers was delightful, and the fact that the boat touched upon three different states—Missouri, Kentucky and Illinois—was an unique experience to the visitors.

The meetings were held in the Cairo Public Library.

The first address was given by Mrs. W. S. Hefferan, of Chicago, on "Moral and Religious Education in the Home." Mrs. Hefferan's idea of moral training is a tender, tactful fostering of every child's latent religion, without which she believes no children are born.

Miss Georgia Chamberlin, of Chicago, said that religion does not come into the life of the child from the outside, but that he is always a religious being, and, as he develops, his religious life takes form and we try to control the channel of his religious interpretation by an all-round development. There are wonderful stories in the Bible that fit every occasion and, upon request, Miss Chamberlin told the story of Abraham in a beautiful, simple manner, giving the setting of the story, then reading it in the Bible.

Miss Elizabeth Harrison's telling the story "The Little Blind Sister or The Line of Golden Light," was one of the most impressive and inspiring moments of the convention.

The address given by Mrs. Florence Keiser, of Chicago, on "New and Interesting Developments in Country School Life," proved so interesting that Mrs. Rowell, of California, moved that it be printed in full in the CHILD-WELFARE MAGAZINE. It will appear in the August issue.

Unusual interest was felt by all the delegates in the address, given by Mrs. Schoff, on "Our Great Work." She told the history of the founding of the Mothers' Congress in Illinois and paid a tribute to Mrs. Roger B. McMullen, its first president. Mrs. Schoff presided at the organization, and not another person at the convention was present at its organization.

One morning was given to the discussion of the motion picture problem. This meeting was held in the Kimmel Moving Picture House, and was in charge of Mrs. Michael, the efficient chairman of the social service committee.

### REPORT OF THE BETTER FILMS COMMITTEE OF ILLINOIS CONGRESS

In the early part of November the Better Films Committee of the Illinois Congress

of Mothers and Parent-Teacher Associations sent out the enclosed letter relative to better moving pictures for children. The many ready responses and questions asked, proved the need of this movement.

Up to the present time twenty-five theaters in Chicago are giving children's performances, and in almost every instance the performances are chaperoned by four or five members of organizations interested. Twenty-four cities in Illinois have been reported to the Better Films Committee, where one or more theaters are giving children's performances. These figures are made up from actual reports. No doubt the number would easily be doubled if all performances were reported.

The organizations working along this line have found the moving picture theater managers ready to cooperate. One theater manager in Chicago has opened seven of his theaters for Saturday afternoon performances for children and has invited one of the Better Films Committees of a parent-teacher association to review all pictures to be shown in his various theaters. Another parent-teacher association down state, invited all clubs, including the business men's organization, to help in this movement, with the result that the two best theaters in that town are giving children's performances. Another organization, after circulating a petition in the neighborhood to prove to the theater manager the desire on the part of parents for better films, was asked by the theater man to meet at his theater and discuss plans. They now have a regular children's matinee. Many theaters have a regular attendance of fifteen hundred children every matinee day.

There is a plan on foot in Chicago to form a children's film exchange, where entire programs will be arranged. The Better Films Committee of the Illinois Congress of Mothers have been asked to form a review body made up of members of different organizations in Chicago, to pass on and endorse all pictures handled by this exchange. Such an exchange will greatly facilitate matters, as at present the films are scattered throughout the country. Another company is to produce juvenile pictures and is anxious to have them endorsed by the Better Films Committee. Both of these companies state that if they can be shown a market they will fill all orders for films for children.

On February 8 the council of Parent-Teachers Association of Chicago and vicinity devoted a program to the "Moving Picture and the Child."

On January 22 a letter was sent to the mayor of Chicago by the Better Films Committee, asking that the ordinance then before

the city council, making it possible to permit schools safely to use moving picture machines without being obliged to pay charges now demanded by licensed operators, be passed. This ordinance was passed. If you cannot induce your moving picture theater manager to show suitable pictures to the children, you can perhaps use your schools for that purpose.

That the campaign for better films for children has awakened great interest is shown by the many letters received from non-affiliated clubs (even from other states), from the desire on the part of the moving picture producers to have their lists of films endorsed by this organization and from the fact that while at the National Congress of Mothers and Parent-Teacher Associations, the subject of the moving picture was not on the official program, the problem itself was one of the biggest issues at Nashville, Tenn.

Experience has taught the organizations interested that a program must not be too educational—there should be romance, fairytales and comedy as well as nature study, history and industrial subjects. A point to be considered is the adolescent child. The younger child is easily protected. His parents or guardian usually accompanies him, but the older child is a law unto himself in the choice of moving pictures. The glaring advertising matter in the front of the theater, which is often more dangerous than the picture shown, is his one guide. To awaken the minds of the people to their responsibility in demanding better films for children, the following questions are asked by the Better Films Committee—

"Do you know where your child is receiving his legitimate recreation?"

"Do you realize the influence the average moving picture has upon the mind of your adolescent boy or girl?"

"Do you wish to see your child a graduate in the school of crime through the medium of the vicious moving picture?"

"Do you know that there is such a thing as intemperance in the use of moving pictures?"

The question of national board of censorship, federal censorship or local censorship evolves itself into a matter of "personal" censorship. If each parent or guardian will demand suitable pictures for children and each parent-teacher association, woman's club, civic club and church organization will make "Better Films for Children" a topic on their next year's program, untold good will be the result.

MRS. FREDERIC MICHAEL,  
*Chairman Better Films Committee.*



Mrs. Michael sent to all the associations through the state the following letter:

"The crying need for better moving pictures for children is so apparent that it hardly seems necessary to dwell on that question: an effort to better this condition is the essential thing. That the moving picture can be made of as much value as good literature for our children, is coming to be understood. There is the historical film, the film of romance, the film of clean comedy and the educational film. We would not willingly allow our children to read what is termed 'trash' in literature, yet those children who attend the average movie theater, are having every lovely ideal shattered by what they see there.

"With this problem before us, the Social Service Committee of the Illinois Congress of Mothers and Parent-Teacher Associations mean to make a campaign for better moving pictures for children, and each organization can help this work along by carrying out the following plan: Make up a committee to approach your best moving picture theater manager in your particular neighborhood with the request that he give one 'children's performance' a week. Saturday morning has proven very popular in Chicago. If the demand is made strong enough there will be a supply. The moving picture producers whom I have interviewed have claimed that there is not enough demand for this 'better films for children.' The women of Illinois can make that demand.

"There is a bureau in Chicago (the only one if its kind in the West) that is making a specialty of good moving pictures for children. Some of the committee have seen a number of their performances and cannot speak too highly of them. This bureau chooses not only the best pictures, but religiously cuts out anything objectionable. Their programs are selected by a woman.

"Now that the social center bill has become a law and it is your privilege to ask for the use of your school house, it would be a splendid plan to instal a moving picture machine and bring your 'movies' to the school under proper supervision.

"Will you kindly inform me what action has been taken in your community and keep me in touch with the progress that is made?"

After a general discussion and reports from associations as to their work for the betterment of moving pictures, Dr. R. E. Hieronymus, of the University of Illinois, spoke on the "Future of the Moving Picture."

He said the possibilities of this force are just being realized and discussed censorship of films.

The Round Table, under the leadership of Mrs. O. T. Bright, vice-president of the national and chairman of state organization, discussed "Organization and Maintenance of Parent-Teacher Associations." It proved most helpful as it was an opportunity for suggestions, questions and an interchange of ideas "that had worked." It filled a decided need felt at Ottawa, a chance to "talk things over."

The visiting state presidents gave interesting accounts of work in their states. Mrs. Rowell, of California, said that Illinois and California are of the same age in parent-teacher work. Their organization and methods of work are much the same.

Mrs. Edward Robinson, of Maryland, spoke especially of Maryland passing the Widows' Pension Bill, which makes the twenty-seventh state in which this important law has been secured. Mrs. Robinson was warm in her praise of what the press had done, being always ready to print good news and true news, and suggested that the national congress needs a press representative to prepare and send out the news to the associations through the country.

Two-minute reports of delegates were given. Nearly every association has a moving picture committee. Many associations have been instrumental in procuring playground equipment for their schools. Kindergartens are being installed, money raised to start school libraries, schools beautified, school grounds improved or enlarged, opening schools as school centers, establishment of the penny-savings bank either in school or in connection with the banks. Some associations are working to do away with fraternities and sororities. One mothers' club makes little wardrobes for values. Many associations are wrestling with the problems of school lunches, hygiene, sanitation, etc. All are trying to cooperate with their teaching force that better acquaintance be possible between parents and teachers and all working for that which is for the best interest of their children, home and school.

At the banquet held the opening evening over one hundred were present, Mrs. Langworthy acting as toastmistress. The subject was "The American Child," and the speakers were Miss Minnie Whitham, Miss Elizabeth Harrison, Dr. Hurt, Mrs. Frederic Schoff, and Prof. Johnson of the Cairo High School.

#### REPORT OF PRESIDENT LANGWORTHY

The year has been full of work and of progress. The calls for help in organizing parent-teacher associations have been almost more than the extension committee

could fill, and, whereas in the past we have had to beg for invitations to assist in the work, we now are hardly able to accept the unsolicited invitations that come in every week from school officers and interested parents. The results are splendidly encouraging.

*Conferences.*—During the year we have held conferences in Lockport, Springfield and in six schools in Chicago. At these conferences have been given extremely valuable delegates' reports. These reports show splendid work along the line of school beautifying, playgrounds equipment, gifts of domestic science and manual training apparatus, and musical instruments, and, best of all, a community betterment for children and young people. If a parent-teacher association can report an improved social condition and better understanding between parent and teacher, it has more than justified its existence. Only a comparatively small number of associations can send delegates to the state meetings, but many could come into touch with other delegates and officers through these conferences.

I want to repeat my request of last year—that you invite us to hold such a conference with you in any part of the state, wherever three or more associations can cooperate in the meeting.

At the state teachers' association held in Springfield in December, the parent-teacher section held a luncheon and section meeting with a large attendance of school principals, parents and teachers.

During the past twelve months your president has visited fourteen towns, and has spoken to clubs and associations forty-six times during the year.

*Board of Managers.*—The officers and directors of the congress have met every second month with the exception of July and August, and the chairmen of state committees have met in round table conferences every other month. The board meetings have been held in Ottawa, Chicago, River Forest, Blue Island, Wilmette and Cairo.

The congress has printed and distributed 1,000 copies of our year book, 600 copies each of circular letters from the president and seven chairmen of state committees, hundreds of extension pamphlets, speakers' lists, loan paper lists, conference and council announcements, and many small leaflets, such as "Ten Good Reasons for Parent-Teacher Associations," and "Topics for Parent-Teachers Meetings." The printing and postage expenses are a large item in the congress work, but one that should be increased rather than diminished, because of its efficacy in spreading the work.

*Magazine.*—Our national CHILD-WELFARE MAGAZINE should be in the hands of every mother and teacher in Illinois. Its price is only a dollar a year or seventy-five cents in clubs of five or more, and in this day of cheap and harmful magazines it stands out prominently as one of high literary and moral standards, as well as being instructive and entertaining. Your president sends to this magazine each month a news letter from Illinois and it is for this particularly that she begs you for clippings or letters giving items from your association.

*Plans for the Future.*—Some one in *The Outlook* said, not long ago: "The real measure of the gain we have made is the vigor of impulse it imparts for still greater gains."

The Congress needs and hopes in the next year to accomplish a County Council in each of our one hundred two counties. Illinois is so large, home duties so pressing, and travelling expenses so great that it is difficult for us to meet often as a state body; but this county organization would provide a means of getting together groups of delegates two or three times a year at very little expense and trouble, from which every association represented would receive help and encouragement. In addition, the county officers, keeping in constant touch with the state board, could supply help to individual associations at close range. For your own benefit, think this project over, and work up a sentiment for an organization in your own county. McLean County has been the pioneer in this and finds it a great success. Mrs. Harry Fleming, of Bloomington, one of the vice-presidents, can tell you how they did it.

The Congress is hoping to secure in each district state teachers' association a permanent section like the one that we have in the Illinois Teachers' Association. We have been granted this privilege in several instances but we wish to establish it as a permanent institution.

We are enlarging the scope of our juvenile court committee work by a closer cooperation with the juvenile protective association. In this way we hope to go far toward eliminating all bad conditions in our schools environment.

Our foreign-born parents, of which we have many thousands in Illinois, who understand no word of English, are lying heavily on the heart of your president. In these families the children who learn English in school, soon come to dominate the home, because the parents are not conversant with the American language and customs. This condition works for ill both with the children and the parents whose normal position of

control is reversed, and it can be rectified only by the full Americanization of the parents along with the child. The night schools take care of many of the fathers, but there is no opportunity for the mothers unless the parent-teacher associations can help them. We have a few circles that are doing this but we are hoping to accomplish it in many more in the next year.

We want to double our membership in 1916, and this we will accomplish through your coöperation.

The parents' work is the fundamental one of our lives and we may not shirk it, either in the home or the community. This task of mental, moral and physical betterment for our children is our only aim, and it is one that can be accomplished only by the highest ideals and the fullest coöperation.

A cordial invitation from Bloomington to hold the next convention there was accepted by the convention. The following officers were elected: President, Mrs. B. F. Langworthy, River Forest; Vice-Presidents, Mrs. O. T. Bright, Chicago; Mrs. Harry Fleming, Bloomington; Mrs. Frederick C. Test, Chicago; Directors, Mrs. Frederick Hall, Dundee; Mrs. Harry Detweiler, Aurora; Miss Minnie Whitham, Oak Park; Mrs. Chester Broomell, Chicago; Miss Katherine Obye, Galena.

### MAINE

#### How Augusta and Fairfield Celebrated Baby Week

Through the coöperation of the parent-teacher association and the state board of health an excellent child-welfare exhibit was shown in the city hall, Augusta, during baby week.

One of the features of the exhibit was the stereo-motograph with a set of fifty-two slides illustrating proper and improper methods of caring for the child, and a lecturer gave an interesting talk on the various slides as they were shown.

A corner of the room was devoted to the proper care of the child's teeth, another to the prevention of spreading germs by means of flies, a section was devoted to the exposure of a great number of patent sedatives and soothing syrups that contain poisonous ingredients.

Another section was devoted to the work of fighting tuberculosis by means of fresh-air schools, views from the schools in Rochester N. Y., Franklin Park, Boston, and in Central Park, N. Y., were exhibited. The treatment of tonsils and adenoids was graphically portrayed by means of illustrative posters showing the results of neglecting and those of caring for these parts of the body.

A section illustrative of proper drinking fountains and the protection of milk from contamination was very helpful.

One large poster showed the injurious effects of oil heaters which give off poisonous fumes and burn up the oxygen in the room. Some sections dealt with the school lighting systems, proper desks for pupils, medical inspection of students, model dairies and milk stations, the treatment of bone tuberculosis, the care of children in hot weather, etc.

In the evening, Mrs. D. W. Weeks, state lecturer of the board of health, gave a very instructive address, on "The Care and Proper Development of the Child."

In Fairfield there were several excellent addresses on child-welfare and kindred subjects.

One speaker mentioned the fact that Somerset County has a man agent to whom one can report cases of neglect or abuse of children, but that a woman is very much needed to talk to the girls.

A most interesting talk was given on the painted panels which were taken from original photographs by Miss Morrison, of New York City, who is well known in Fairfield. They were arranged in order, showing the care of children before birth up to the age when they have to reason for themselves. A principal from one of the schools in Brooklyn, N. Y., has said: "Pupils would get more from these pictures than from most books of physiology." These panels may be secured by corresponding with the National Child-Welfare Association, 70 Fifth Avenue, New York City. Each panel is complete in itself, the art work and striking statements on each telling a story of its own.

Dr. Ethel Walters gave a demonstration of the lung motor for infants, telling the parents how and in what cases the motor was used. She showed the work of the motor and said in most cases it had proven satisfactory, and that in the near future all physicians would have them as a part of their equipment.

### MARYLAND

The Baltimore Child Welfare Circle met in Belvedere Hotel, June 12. The opening address was given by Mrs. Edward A. Robinson, state president.

"Needless Denials" was discussed by Mrs. E. D. Edmondson; "The Contribution of the Kindergarten to the Home," by Miss Irene S. Gogel; "Favorites among Children," by Mrs. Wishes Wamboldt, and "Self Control through Discipline," by Mrs. John Middleton. Mrs. H. Patterson Harris, 1 Englewood Road, Roland Park, is treasurer,

and Mrs. J. Edward Tyler, Jr., corresponding secretary.

Mrs. David O. Mears, national vice-president, spent a week in May in Maryland, visiting and speaking to many associations in Baltimore, Annapolis and vicinity, accompanied by Mrs. Robinson, state president.

### MISSISSIPPI

The seventh annual conference of the Mississippi Congress of Mothers and Parent-Teacher Associations held in Columbus was the most profitable conference of the congress ever held in Mississippi, and the work has received great help and inspiration. We are looking forward to achieving greater success this incoming year.

The congress was especially fortunate in having Mrs. Schoff and Mrs. Thacher present, and they added much enthusiasm and inspiration which will mean much to the workers during this year.

The meetings were held in the chapel of the State Industrial Institute and College, with assistance of President Whitfield. Coming into contact with the young life of the thousand students, and receiving the cordial welcome and godspeed from the more than one hundred members of the faculty, had a telling effect on the work.

The reports from the state officers and delegates showed an increase of work done last year over the preceding year, and also showed ten new associations in membership. One of the most significant signs of progress was, that every delegate was full of expectancy for a more successful year in her association during 1916-1917 than they had in 1915-1916; and went home more determined to extend and develop the local work.

We found that practically all the associations were working for better moving picture shows. The following motion was offered by the Brookhaven Club, and adopted: Since public opinion decides the character of moving picture shows which are popular in a town, we the Congress of Mothers and Parent-Teacher Associations desire to create a sentiment in every town for more wholesome pictures; and especially do we appeal that the pictures presented on Saturday afternoons be inspirational and educational in their nature, that the children may be uplifted and benefitted thereby.

Motion was made and carried to request, at State Sunday-School Convention, that mothers departments be organized in all the schools of the state, a part of their study being child life.

The need of an institution for the mentally defective child was discussed by Miss Mabel Lee Cooper, psychologist of Memphis City

Schools. The congress will work together with the other organizations in the state in an effort to have the legislature pass laws in favor of such an institution.

Professor Whitfield, in an address on "Coöperation of Mothers and Teachers," made the women present see more clearly how they could coöperate, and what coöperation really is. He brought before the conference the need of the home credit system and the congress is working toward having this line of work included in our school system.

Mrs. Schoff's address on "How Parent-Teacher Associations Can Help Save 100,000 Babies during 1916" made us see more than ever the need of the better babies campaigns which we have been having a part in. Also her taking up the different departments of the Congress work and explaining them was a help to the workers.

Mrs. Thacher gave splendid addresses on "After Organization What?" and "The Mother's Responsibility to the Child."

The congress voted to contribute to the national endowment fund this year, the first time it has felt that it could do this.

County organization work was discussed and we hope to do work along this line during 1916-1917.

One of the most helpful round tables was "How Can We Extend the Parent-Teacher Association Work in Mississippi?" The delegates took part freely in the discussions, and were very helpful one to another. The Natchez association showing how its membership was increased during last year from forty-five members to ninety-five.

The next annual conference will be held in Ha tiesburg during the spring of 1917, already plans are being made for this meeting.

### MISSOURI

The month of May, marking as it does the closing of the ward schools, will also reveal an appreciable lull in parent-teacher work, though many will continue their activities throughout the summer, and by various means replenish their treasuries for the fall term.

An annual picnic was given by the Springfield Council of Parent-Teacher Associations for the ward school children, their families and friends. According to W. H. Pease, manager of the park, paid admissions to this event for the year 1915 numbered considerably over two thousand.

The activities include a swimming race in the park lake for boys of any age, running contests open to boys and girls of different ages, and tug of war.



Any woman in Springfield may enter the home cooking contest. Entries may consist of any variety the contestant may desire to submit of the following: Bread, loaf cake, layer cake, plain rolls, fancy rolls, angel food cake, doughnuts, salad, cookies, one and two crust pies and miscellaneous articles.

Following a number of requests, a special prize is given in the candy making contest. Candy, fudge and divinity were originally included in the list of articles in the cooking contest.

Those directing the entries ask that all cooking offerings be placed neatly on a paste-board plate and covered with a paper napkin. One prize offered in each class.

A basket lunch is held in the evening following the athletic events, sufficiently late to permit business men to join their families. Those who do not take their lunches with them may purchase them from the various stands.

After the lunch, an impromptu program is rendered by the school children, under the direction of Miss Rebecca Conlon, principal of the Campbell school.

The Springfield Traction Company have a large number of cars, so that ample transportation is provided. A small admission fee is charged.

*School Gardening in Springfield.*—More interest than ever before manifested in the school gardening movement is being displayed by pupils in several of the public schools of the city, according to Mrs. William Rullkoetter, president of the Springfield Council of Mothers' Clubs and Parent-Teacher Associations. Four schools now have gardens and one is conducting a window box garden.

At the Tefft school, in the extreme east part of the city, several hundred bulbs, planted last fall by the pupils, have blossomed profusely, indicating the success of the gardening project there. Vegetables of the earlier varieties also are being taken from the school garden daily. At the Phelps school, the gardening movement has been confined to the window boxes, but much interest in the growth of flowers has been expressed by the pupils.

The garden of the Greenwood school, training school of the Springfield State Normal, also is a source of much interest to pupils, many of whom have demonstrated their willingness to weed the garden by remaining after the close of school.

The Greenwood school is under the supervision of Prof. C. B. Gentry, director of the agricultural department of the normal.

At the Bowerman school plants in the window boxes are ready for transplanting but, owing to the fact that a change is contem-

plated in the school grounds, including the application of a layer of sand, the plants will not be set out in the school lot, but will be distributed among the pupils for planting in their home gardens. Prizes for the best results are to be awarded at the end of the season by the council of mothers' clubs.

The Boyd school garden has been under the supervision of Prof. C. H. Spurgeon, head of the department of biology of Drury College, and here also much interest in keeping the garden well weeded is being taken by the pupils. Both flowering plants and vegetables are being grown by the pupils.

*Many Individual Gardens.*—In addition to the school gardens, a number of individual home gardens are in charge of public school pupils and C. H. Hollied, landscape gardener employed by the park board, has been asked to visit a number to demonstrate proper methods of planting and cultivation.

The school gardening movement was launched at a luncheon of the young men's business club several months ago attended by representatives of the park board, mothers' clubs and other organizations of the city.

## NEW HAMPSHIRE

The third annual meeting of the New Hampshire branch of the National Congress of Mothers and Parent-Teacher Associations met in Derry in May, by invitation of Derry parent-teacher associations. Delegates were present from Manchester, New Ipswich, Portsmouth, Rye, Hampstead, Laconia, Milford, Franklin, Lebanon, Enfield, Londonderry and Derry.

Mrs. Herbert L. Grinnell, Jr., president of the Derry Parent-Teacher Association, extended the greetings and the response was made by Mrs. J. B. Moore, president of the New Hampshire state branch.

Following the annual reports of the president, Mrs. John B. Moore, and the recording secretary and treasurer, Mrs. James S. Smith, of Laconia, delegates and nominating committee, the following officers were elected for the next year:

*Officers Elected.*—President, Mrs. A. H. Harriman, Laconia; vice-presidents, Mrs. C. H. McDuffee, of Alton, Mrs. James H. Pringle, of Portsmouth, Mrs. H. P. Sweet, of Franklin, Mrs. A. H. M. Curtis, of Manchester, Mrs. H. L. Grinnell, Jr., of Derry; recording secretary, Mrs. J. A. Marshall, Manchester; corresponding secretary and treasurer, Mrs. James S. Smith, Laconia; auditor, Prof. J. W. Smith, Manchester.

## NEW JERSEY

### Plan Conference at Collingswood

The spring meeting of the Community Council of Child-Welfare Organizations of

Haddonfield and vicinity was held at the beautiful home of Mrs. L. P. Tomlinson at Marlton, May 13.

The principal speaker of the afternoon was Mrs. W. M. Sanford, of the New Jersey Congress of Mothers. Mrs. Sanford has been organizing community councils throughout the state and gave many valuable and practical suggestions to the association. She also emphasized the principle for which the organization stands—namely, the welfare of the child.

The council is planning for a conference to be held October 19, in the Collingswood High School. The council has the coöperation of the executive board of the mothers' congress who will supply them with able speakers.

The following officers of the council for the coming year were elected: President, Miss Addie Appleton, of Haddonfield; vice-president, Mrs. J. W. Sturmer, of Collingswood; secretary and treasurer, Mrs. J. L. Koerner, of Audubon. All organizations interested in child welfare in this vicinity are invited to join the council.

#### OHIO

Cleveland is doing valuable work for the babies. The health commissioner mails to each mother a health certificate and the mayor writes a personal letter. In this way it is expected that the death rate among babies will be greatly reduced. The congress of mothers is coöperating with the bureau of education in establishing free pre-natal bureaus for information of expectant mothers.

The Ohio Congress has recommended to the governor that a knitting factory be established at the Girls' Home at Delaware, in order that girls who are committed there may be paid a certain amount of money to be placed to their credit, and given to them when they are released, to tide them over until they can get suitable employment.

The International Kindergarten Union was tendered a luncheon by the Cleveland Congress of Mothers, over four hundred participating. Mrs. Orville T. Bright gave an inspiring address on the good results that may be accomplished by the coöperation of kindergartens and parent-teacher associations.

The next annual convention will be held in Massillon in October.

#### PENNSYLVANIA

Bloomsburg, the seat of one of the state normal schools, was chosen for the place of holding the annual convention in October by the state board which met in Philadelphia

in May, with members present from Pittsburgh, Gettysburg, Coatesville, Chester and Philadelphia. Approval of the plan to hold state board meetings in different parts of the state was expressed. Mrs. Fothergill, state president, has had heart and hands full for over two months in the long illness and death of her father the last of May.

Coatesville will plan a meeting of local parent-teacher associations when the board meets there.

#### TENNESSEE

Dr. E. L. Bishop, of the state board of health, who has in charge the rural sanitary department has asked the coöperation of Tennessee Congress of Mothers and Parent-Teacher Associations in an effort to establish better hygiene conditions in rural communities and schools.

He especially endorses the parent-teacher movement and has offered to personally assist in organizing such associations.

It is through this medium that he hopes to firmly establish in every rural community the principles of good sanitation.

Mrs. Eugene Crutcher, state president of mothers' congress, fully endorses this coöperative plan and pledges her loyal support. The plan has gone into operation already.

In Fayetteville Mrs. Crutcher and Dr. Bishop urged that parent-teacher associations be formed in every school.

In Mulberry a large meeting in the court house resulted in the organization of an association with twenty-five members, Mrs. H. K. Holman, president. In Bellville Mrs. Crutcher organized a parents' association in the Baptist Church, receiving enthusiastic support. Mrs. W. F. Cannon was chosen president. In Kelso a parents' association was formed in the Baptist Church, Mrs. H. B. Sorrels was elected president. In Nashville the school clinic is closing its second year of usefulness, and the need for such a clinic is daily evidenced by its steady growth.

That Nashville is a pioneer in this division of work for school children should be a source of pride to her citizens. Many cities of the older countries have school clinics, but in America few have been established and the one in Nashville is among the first. The fame of good being done, of defects corrected, and a corresponding increase in the capacities of the child—mental, moral and physical—has appeared, and many inquiries have been made by other cities, and work along similar lines has been begun by them.

The confidence and love of the children for "their" clinic is both gratifying and helpful. The following statistics for the

past school year may prove of interest: Operations, 259; dental treatments, 833; other treatments, 1,005. This has been financed by local parent-teacher associations.

Our state president, to an invitation from the school improvement association of Gordonsville, recently responded in the interest of mothers' congress and parent-teacher association.

Mr. John J. Hendrickson, superintendent of the Gordonsville school, was present and endorsed the congress's work.

The association affiliated with the congress and has proceeded to arrange its work so as to conform with the state and national work.

Various committees have been appointed and the program plan has been adopted.

The association is wide awake, interested in all child-welfare and civic movements.

The association at Winchester have during the past year put on a splendid lyceum course for the school, at an expense of \$510.00. Through the united effort of its members the amount has been paid and the result is gratifying.

Flower day, which was observed in Nashville on May 17, under the chairmanship of Mrs. Alice Cloyd, was a splendid success. About \$1,500 was raised, funds to be used for benefit of "Fresh Air Camp."

The Tennessee Branch is very much grieved to announce the death on May 22 of our state chairman of child labor, Mrs. Clara Louise Fraley.

Mrs. Fraley has been for thirty-five years a prominent teacher of the public schools of Nashville, and at the time of her death she held the chair of French in the high school.

She was instrumental in organizing a parent-teacher association in her school some years ago and was its beloved and successful president until the time of her death.

### TEXAS

A juvenile film exchange has been established and those who are interested may secure detailed information by writing to Mrs. J. B. Preston, 5206 Reiger Avenue, Dallas, Texas. Mrs. Preston is both the president of a mothers' club and secretary of the Dallas Council of Mothers.

During the month of April and the early part of May, four child-welfare conferences were held in the various parts of the state under the auspices of the district organizations, the subjects discussed, among others, being Juvenile Delinquency, Simplicity of School Dress, Thrift, Preparedness through Parental Education, the leading topic being The Health of School Children. The need for a state law making physical examination and establishment of free clinics under the

direction of the school boards compulsory is a movement in which the congress has the strong support of the state board of health, the registrar being especially active in this educational propaganda. Certain of the leading cities of the state have already a system of physical examination, having school physicians and visiting school nurses. A report of one of the nurses gives a new feature of preventive work as the nose-blowing drills. This may sound strange, but it is a powerful factor in preventing adenoid growths and clearing the nasal passages for breathing. Some of the teachers are so enthusiastic that they carry it on as a part of their daily routine, especially in the lower grades. Every child is required to carry a handkerchief.

All the districts show great increase in strength of work done and numerical growth, the fifth district still being in the lead, 113 organizations being enrolled, an increase of 41 over the number reported last year. One parent-teacher association reported that the school had grown from 300 to 700 children; from 4 rooms to 13 rooms; from small surrounding improvements to larger, and the entire school observed "Grass Day," each pupil bringing one or more sods and planting the grass under the direction of the principal and janitors.

*A small rural Parent-Teacher Association wins two big prizes for its school.*

The Vickery Place Parent-Teacher Association, with Mrs. Claude de Van Watts, president, became immediately busy when a large iron swing and a victrola was offered by Mrs. N. B. Ford to the competitor ahead in membership on a certain date. This mothers' club all but "camped" at the spot of interest, the school building. A strong committee sectioned off every particle of the school district. Visits were made in the homes; homes too that hardly knew of the existence of this strengthening bond between parents, teachers and pupils. An active organization of men and fathers were holding a big rally. Explanation of the movement undertaken resulted in every man becoming a member.

Educational work will be promoted in Texas 25 per cent. in ten years, in the releasing by legislation of present limitations on the districts, preventing schools from being closed before expiration of nine months. Some of the rural districts are now forced to close even before 120 days' school term is enjoyed. Parent-teacher associations are in some cases making it possible to carry on longer terms. Mothers are arousing sentiment in favor of the passage of House Bill

No. 30, which must receive the majority of votes cast at the November election. The bill provides for levy and collection of an ad valorem tax not to exceed fifty cents (county) on the one hundred dollar valuation of property for the maintenance of public schools in the county, and a tax not to exceed one dollar on the one hundred dollar valuation, district tax, for the public schools in the district.

If all the school children could be made to understand fully the advantages involved for their respective schools, the teachers of the state might pass the amendment by reaching the voters through the children and it would not be necessary to send out any speakers to conduct a public campaign. The Port Lavaca Mothers' Club raised \$1,200 so that their school might continue its full term.

### VERMONT

Springfield has a parent-teacher association, numbering 112 members. A playground has been paid for, a friend donating \$300, and by an entertainment given by the teachers, in which 500 children took part, they made up a sum necessary to pay for the equipment.

New associations are forming in all parts. Mrs. Henry A. Harman, state president, spent much of the winter in Washington.

### WASHINGTON

The sixth annual convention of the Washington Branch, held in Centralia, April 5-6-7, was an unqualified success both in point of attendance and interest. Two hundred and fifty delegates were seated in the spacious auditorium of the Centralia High School, and greatly enjoyed the program given by splendid speakers. Folk songs and dances given by pupils of the grade schools of the city added greatly to the enjoyment of the convention. Boy scouts and camp fire girls vied with each other to be of service to the delegates, and the cordial hospitality of the citizens of Centralia to our people made our three days' stay among them one of great pleasure.

The general topic of the congress at the first session was the "State's Provision for Physical, Moral and Mental Care of Children." "The Education of the Blind" was reported by Mrs. W. B. Hall, superintendent state school, Vancouver. "The Function of the Parent in the Movement to Prolong Life" was discussed by Dr. F. D. Tuttle, chairman state board of health. "The Erring Girl" was the subject taken by Superintendent Mary Campbell, Girls' Industrial School.

"The School's Share in the Development of the Child" was the topic of the second session. "What Moral Training Should We Expect from the School" was presented by Mrs. G. Dowe McQuestin. "The Physical and Social Training that the School should Provide," Miss Almina George; "The Rural School," Superintendent M. E. Durham; High School Section, Mrs. Alex. Caults, Chairman; Grade School Section, Mrs. Harriet R. Owen, Chairman; Rural School Section, Mrs. V. L. Bevington, Chairman; Child Study and Mothers' Circles, Mrs. Elwell Hoyt, Chairman.

The third session took up "The Responsibility of the Church in the Welfare of the Child." The speaker was Hon. Clark V. Savidge.

"The Responsibility of the Home" was the topic of the fifth session; "Life Habits Formed in the Pre-School Age," Mrs. Elwell Hoyt; "Things that Every Mother Should Know in the Care of her Child," Dr. Harriet J. Clark; "Why Need a Probation Officer," Rev. S. S. Healey; "Mothers and Morals," Mrs. F. E. B. Smith; "What Membership in the Mothers' Congress Should Mean to Every Mother," Mrs. E. B. Lung were subjects treated at this session.

Reports of local associations and county organizations indicated the growth of the movement throughout the state. A reception by Centralia Parent-Teacher Associations was enjoyed. A sight-seeing auto ride, by courtesy of Centralia and Chehalis auto clubs, was much appreciated.

The election of officers resulted as follows: President, Mrs. J. C. Todd, Tacoma; first vice-president, Mrs. G. Dowe McQuestin, Tacoma; second vice-president, Mrs. David Stewart, Chehalis; third vice-president, Mrs. U. G. Pyle, Wenatchee; corresponding secretary, Mrs. W. F. Dodge, Tacoma; recording secretary, Mrs. Arthur Varney, North Yakima; treasurer, Mrs. Robert Coffy, Everett; auditor, Mrs. Robert Montgomery, Puyallup; historian, Mrs. A. J. Morley, Aberdeen.

Washington Branch will finish this year with seven thousand five hundred paid members, which is an increase of eighteen hundred over our last year's membership.

### WISCONSIN

The sixth annual convention of the Wisconsin branch of the Congress of Mothers and Parent-Teacher Associations was held at Madison in April.

There were large delegations from different parts of the state where parent-teacher associations and mothers' clubs have been organized, the largest delegations coming from



Milwaukee and Sheboygan, the latter city the home of the president, Mrs. Hammett.

The invitation to meet at Madison came through the Madison Board of Commerce, which, with the woman's club of that beautiful city, had charge of all arrangements. The meetings were held in the senate chamber of the state capitol. The woman's club had, at the same time and place, a child-welfare exhibit, which brought many mothers, especially those from the rural districts, to see and learn what is being done for the best physical development of the child; and to learn, incidentally, something about the work of the congress. So it was really Baby Day in Madison for the two days' session, at least. If the child has been neglected in the past, he surely received his share of attention and consideration at Madison during the convention. The stores caught the spirit of the occasion and front windows had profuse displays of everything a baby needed, from a cap to a go-cart.

"The most difficult years in the state work have been passed, and the state organization is reaping the benefits of seeds well sown during the past five years. Through the coöperation and unity of purpose of parents and teachers, the congress looks confidently forward to increased betterment of conditions in home and school in Wisconsin," was the way that Mrs. Edward Hammett stated the situation in her president's address.

Mrs. Duane Mowry, a vice-president from Milwaukee, reported that "an effort is being made in her home city to benefit the mother in districts where there is 60 to 85 per cent. of the population of foreign birth or extraction. The plan is to interest mothers in the local associations who are familiar with the foreign languages, one or more of them, and to have these mothers explain to less educated women, mothers particularly, the object of the parent-teacher organizations, hoping, in this way, to be able to help these foreign mothers in many practical ways. Several of the school principals have expressed a desire that an effort be made in this direction. It seems assured of complete success."

Dr. C. A. Harper, president of the state board of health, gave an interesting paper on "Birth Registration." He said "the requirement is as old as the state, yet until 1905 it was taken care of in the secretary of state's office in four pages of statistics."

Dr. Blanton, of the State University Department of Public Speaking, in a paper on "Defective Speech in Children," made the interesting statement that "with the exception of New York City, Wisconsin is doing more special work for the speech defects than any state in the union."

Mrs. Dr. Mendenhall, in discussing "Prenatal Influences in Wisconsin," prophesied that we would live to see the time when the care of maternity and infancy would be a natural obligation under state law and supervision.

What most of these speakers disclosed to the women present was, how much is theirs merely for the asking. Miss Olmsted made it plain that in Wisconsin all that was needed for obtaining a rural nurse, or a rural worker for each county in the state, was sufficient demand brought to bear upon the several county boards of supervisors. Miss Downs told of the help the Anti-Tuberculosis Association could give through the distribution of pamphlets to those who go into the field for duty.

Sheboygan has been chosen as the place for the next meeting in 1917.

The following officers were elected for two years: President, Mrs. Edward Hammett, Sheboygan; vice-presidents, Mrs. G. N. Tremper, Kenosha; Mrs. Duane Mowry, Milwaukee; Mrs. Milton H. Umbreit, Milwaukee; Mrs. E. D. Bullock, Madison; Mrs. George Gibson, Grand Rapids; recording secretary, Mrs. Edward Birkenwald, Milwaukee; corresponding secretary, Miss Elizabeth Marshall, Milwaukee; treasurer, Mrs. J. E. Radcliffe, West Allis; additional members of the board of directors, Mrs. Henry Sullivan, Milwaukee; Mrs. H. C. Campbell, Milwaukee; Mrs. Thomas Lloyd-Jones, Madison; Mrs. Theodore Merter, Ashland; Mrs. George Bloomer, Fond du Lac.

## Statement of the Endowment Fund Including the 1916 Child-Welfare Day Contributions

Previously reported .....	\$5,165.88	New York, Parent-Teacher Associa-	
Endowment contributions as follows:		tions, Gloversville.....	1.00
Oregon, Tigard Parent-Teacher Associa-		New York, Mothers' Club, Hudson	
tion, Portland.....	5.00	Falls.....	5.00
Oregon, Sylvan Parent-Teacher Associa-		New York, Mothers' Club, Bingham-	
tion, Hillsdale.....	5.00	ton.....	12.00
Washington, Whitworth Parent-Teacher		New York, Mothers' Club of New York	
Association, Seattle.....	5.00	City.....	15.00
Washington, Parent-Teacher Associa-		New York, Mothers' Club, Glen Falls..	5.00
tion, Winlock.....	5.00	New York, Mothers' Club, Poughkeep-	
Washington, Grant School Circle, Ta-		sie.....	3.00
coma .....	5.00	Tennessee Congress.....	4.32
Washington, Mrs. E. J. Doty, Winlock	1.00	Missouri, Barr Study Club, St. Louis..	2.00
Washington, Sherman Parent-Teacher		Texas.....	1.00
Association, Tacoma.....	5.00	Texas, Parent-Teacher Association,	
Washington, Parent-Teacher Associa-		Runge.....	1.00
tion, Tenino.....	1.00	Michigan, Mothers' Circle, Redford....	1.00
Idaho, Boise City Circles, Boise.....	5.00	Colorado.....	1.00
Alabama, Mothers' Self Culture Club...	1.40	California, Glendale Schools, Glen-	
Alabama, Mothers' Self Culture Club,		dale.....	5.90
Elba.....	1.00	California, Palo Alto Parent-Teacher	
Alabama, Mothers' Circle, Montgom-		Association, San Jose.....	5.00
ery.....	5.50	California, Parent-Teacher Association,	
Mrs. Grace Stephens Jobe, Kansas City,		Huntington Beach.....	2.00
Mo. (for her daughter Miriam Ste-		Washington, Parent-Teacher Associa-	
phens Jobe).....	5.00	tion, Olympia.....	3.15
Oregon, Beaverton Parent-Teacher Asso-		Washington.....	1.00
ciation.....	5.00	South Dakota, Watertown Parent-	
Pennsylvania, Parent-Teacher Associa-		Teacher Association.....	1.00
tions, Coatesville.....	5.00	Pennsylvania, Public Schools, Gettys-	
Tennessee Congress for life member-		burg.....	9.33
ship of Mrs. Eugene Crutcher.....	50.00	New Jersey, Parent-Teacher Associa-	
Child-Welfare Day Offerings as follows:		tion, Highland Park.....	5.00
New York Congress.....	3.00	North Dakota, Parent-Teacher Asso-	
New York, Mrs. G. W. Turner.....	1.00	ciation, Marion.....	1.00
			\$5,364.48